

Ensur: Kuwait will not expel Jordanians

AMMAN (R) — Jordan said Sunday it had information that Kuwait would not expel Jordanians en masse because of their perceived pro-Iraq sympathies. Foreign Minister Abdullah Ensour said that according to what he called source and unofficial information, "there is no Kuwaiti intention to deport our citizens en masse." Jordan hopes "this is the reality because if it is so, it means that matters are starting to go in the right direction," he told reporters. "If it is otherwise, then this would be a clear violation of all customs and values upheld by humanity." Dr. Ensour did not say where his information came from. Kuwait said this month it was trying to get thousands of non-Kuwaiti civil servants. The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said most would be Jordanians and Palestinians. Amman's economy has not yet absorbed 300,000 Jordanians who returned after Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

Volume 16 Number 4749

AMMAN MONDAY, JULY 15, 1991, MUHARRAM 3, 1412

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Bahrain rejects Qatar's claim

BAHRAIN (AP) — Bahrain Sunday rejected a territorial sovereignty claim by Qatar to two tiny islands and reefs in the Gulf. The government of the State of Bahrain, which is a member of the Arab League, said in a brief Foreign Ministry statement. The claim by Qatar, made in a formal application to the International Court at the Hague, received a border dispute going back to 1947 when both Gulf sheikhdoms were British protectorates. A British decision at the time placed the islands of Hawar, Fasht Al Dibai and the Juraid reefs under Bahraini sovereignty. The islands, between Bahrain and Qatar peninsula, are reportedly rich in gas and oil. The International Court announced Saturday that it had received an application by Qatar renewing previous claims to the islands. The Bahrain Foreign Ministry said it received a copy of the Qatar application from the International Court and "is responding in an appropriate manner."

Yemen ends contracts of Egyptian teachers

CAIRO (AP) — Yemen will replace 18,000 Egyptian teachers in its schools with Yemenis who lost their jobs in Gulf countries because of Yemen's support for Iraq, a Yemeni official said Sunday. Alawi Ahmad Alawi, an under-secretary at Yemen's Ministry of Education, announced the decision after meeting at the Egyptian Education Ministry. The instructions affected by the decision teach primary school students aged six to 15. Mr. Alawi said Egyptian teachers in Yemeni secondary schools and community colleges will not be affected. During the Gulf war, Saudi Arabia ended work and trade privileges for two million workers from Yemen. Many were replaced by Egyptians to reward Cairo's staunch anti-Iraq stance and contribution of 38,500 troops to coalition that ousted Iraq from Kuwait. Some 2,000 of the returning Egyptian teachers are government employees.

Chinese premier arrives in Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng arrived in Kuwait from Syria Sunday after issuing a joint call with Damascus for a Middle East peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations. Mr. Li is on the last leg of a tour which has already taken him to Egypt, Jordan, Iran, Syria and Saudi Arabia. A joint communique issued in Damascus before Mr. Li left for Kuwait said an international conference was the best way to achieve peace in the Middle East (see page 2).

Algeria shows signs of calm

ALGIERS (R) — The Algerian army moved at least 20 tanks out of the capital early Sunday and pulled its forces off the main streets of an eastern town, in an apparent sign of confidence that fundamentalist unrest has been curbed. Witnesses said the tanks headed away from the Defence Ministry area, where they had been assembled within striking distance of flashpoints, and rumoured towards the airport road where a barracks is located. Algerian Radio said Sunday tanks and troops had also left junctions and streets in the eastern town of Constantine, staying on only in known trouble spots.

Quake rocks Pakistan, Afghanistan

PESHAWAR (AP) — A severe earthquake shook Afghanistan and Pakistan for nearly a minute Sunday, causing high-rise buildings to sway as far away as New Delhi. There were no immediate reports of casualties, and initial reports said damage was minor. Seismologists in this northwest city and in the Pakistani capital of Islamabad said the 2.09 p.m. (1909 GMT) quake registered 5.8 on the Richter scale.

Syria accepts Bush's proposals for peace

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Syria said Sunday it accepted proposals from U.S. President George Bush aimed at promoting Middle East peace. President Hafez Al Assad, in a letter to Mr. Bush quoted by the official Syrian News Agency, said his proposals were "positive and balanced," and formed the basis for achieving a comprehensive peace settlement. Israel has rejected Mr. Bush's proposals. Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa handed the letter Sunday to the U.S. ambassador to Syria, Edward Djerejian, the agency said.

It said the letter contained "Syria's reply to Bush's proposals for convening an international peace conference to reach a comprehensive and just solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of U.N. resolutions." In the letter Mr. Assad praised the efforts of Mr. Bush and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker "to cope with difficulties that block convening the conference." It said Mr. Bush's proposals are "positive and balanced and constitute an acceptable base to reach a comprehensive solution and achieve a peace process in the region because the proposals are on the basis of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338."

Mr. Assad expressed satisfaction that Mr. Bush had undertaken to make the United States and the Soviet Union a driving force behind the peace process and to assume responsibility for making the conference succeed. Mr. Assad said Mr. Bush gave special importance to a United Nations role in a planned peace conference and confirmed plans for European participation. The Syrian leader said in his letter that the two superpowers had pledged their best efforts to make the conference succeed in achieving the aims of "related" U.N. resolutions. Resolutions 242 and 338 call for Israel to trade occupied Arab land for peace, something the Jewish state refuses. Israel also rejects any U.N. role in a peace conference, which it wants to be a purely ceremonial affair. Mr. Bush had been waiting over a month for Mr. Assad's reply. Within the past fortnight the United States, through Mr. Djerejian, had urged him to respond. Secretary of State Baker made four trips to the region after the Gulf war, seeking to promote solutions, Petra added.

Masri team unfazed by Brotherhood decision to vote against government

Move not surprising; we'll win a majority, say cabinet sources

By Nermeen Murad Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Muslim Brotherhood Movement announced Sunday that it was withholding support from a Prime Minister Taher Masri's cabinet in the upcoming parliamentary vote, but cabinet sources "who were not surprised by the decision" expressed confidence that Mr. Masri will win a majority in the Lower House.

The Muslim Brotherhood parliamentary bloc's decision to withhold its confidence from Mr. Masri's government

was officially announced by its spokesman, Deputy Ahmad Qteish Al Azadeh. "After detailed study of the current situation and its requirements on the local, Arab and international levels, the make-up of the government and its government policy statement, it was unanimously decided to withhold confidence from this government," the one paragraph statement said. It explained the decision was taken at a meeting the Muslim Brotherhood deputies held to discuss the issue.

Government sources, in response to the movement's decision, said they were "not surprised" by the move. "We represent liberal and progressive policies which are in direct contrast to those of the movement," a senior cabinet source said. "It is hardly surprising that, based on this, the movement has decided to oppose us," the source added. Abdul Karim Al Kabani, minister of tourism, told the Jordan Times that he had little doubt the government will win the necessary majority in the House and "go on to lead Jordan towards more democratic achievements and set a course of common sense and honesty."

"This government represents the future," Mr. Kabani stressed. "We refuse to bow to any demand that would take us backwards. Abstention can only lead to social and political upheavals, which we do not need in this country." Government sources calculate that Mr. Masri and his team will secure between 44-48 votes, including abstentions. (Continued on page 5)

Baghdad urges Security Council, Arab League intervention

Iraq gives U.N. fresh nuclear list; Bush and Mitterrand issue threats

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Following a warning from the United Nations and threats of military action by the United States, Iraq delivered a fresh list of its nuclear facilities to U.N. inspectors Sunday. But U.S. President George Bush and French President Francois Mitterrand issued fresh threats Sunday. Sources close to the U.N. team said it was not clear whether the new list met the demands under the U.N. ceasefire resolution which ended the Gulf war. It required Iraq to disclose all its nuclear materials and equipment, and cooperate in the destruction of anything connected to a nuclear weapons programme. Dimitri Pericore, chief of the 37-man team, said earlier that to satisfy U.N. demands, Iraq would have to list all: — Research and development facilities; — Manufacture and production units; — Details of stored or buried uranium which could be used to make nuclear weapons. The Iraqi Foreign Ministry told senior foreign diplomats in a meeting Sunday that Baghdad was ready for full cooperation with the U.N. special commission. Mr. Bush and Mr. Mitterrand warned Iraq Sunday that renewed allied military action was likely if it persisted in trying to develop nuclear weapons or persecuted the Kurds. "I think it is very important to the security of the region and the whole world... that (Iraq) not go forward with a nuclear programme," Mr. Bush told a news conference after he and Mr. Mitterrand concluded an hour of talks at (Continued on page 5)

Jordan sees no reason for Western attack against Iraq

AMMAN (R) — Jordan said Sunday it saw no justification for renewed U.S. attacks on Iraq now that Baghdad had promised to cooperate with U.N. nuclear inspectors. "According to my knowledge, Iraq has said it is ready to offer all the needed information on its nuclear effort in line with U.N. Security Council resolutions," Foreign Minister Abdullah Ensour told reporters. "Hence we do not see any justification for such harshness which has been unprecedented in history." "We hope that all matters will have been solved peacefully before the deadline expires," Dr. Ensour said. Dr. Ensour also said U.N. economic sanctions on Iraq should be lifted immediately. "The economic embargo that is harming the Iraqi people is unjustified and rejected by us," he said.

Army ends siege in S. Lebanon

TYRE, Lebanon (R) — The threat of a new showdown between the Lebanese army and Palestinian fighters ended Sunday. Troops removed barbed wire barricades they had thrown up around three Palestinian refugee camps in South Lebanon and a government minister said Palestinians had surrendered almost all their heavy and medium weapons. The military put barricades around the camps of Rashidiyeh, Al Buss, and Bouj Al Shemali near Tyre Saturday after the government accused the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) of hiding arms it had agreed to hand over. Palestinian sources said the threat of a showdown had faded after talks with the government and declared that all weapons the army had demanded be turned in by Sunday had been handed over. Minister of State Abdullah Al Amla, who negotiated the handover of arms including rocket launchers and mortars, told the Communist Voice of the People radio station "the collection of Palestinian weapons was nearly over." He said 95 per cent of heavy and medium PLO arms in the Tyre region were outside the camps in depots guarded by troops. Guerrillas are allowed to keep rifles and sidearms in the camps. Hundreds of troops pushed into the area of Tyre, 75 kilometres south of Beirut, Wednesday and surrounded the camps as part of the government's drive to extend its control throughout the country after 16 years of civil war. The troops moved to Tyre after blasting an estimated 6,000 PLO guerrillas from strongholds near Sidon to the north and beating them back into refugee camps in four days of battles. The army, apparently believing the PLO still had more weapons to surrender, left piles of sand blocking roads to the three camps and allowed residents to use only one entrance to each. Cars queued at checkpoints for hours as troops searched all vehi-

cles and pedestrians entering Rashidiyeh, largest of the three camps. On the seafloor west of Rashidiyeh, soldiers used bulldozers to demolish PLO barricades and stopped Palestinian farmers going to work in nearby fields. Military sources said security was tight to stop guerrillas attacking Israeli troops in the Jewish state's "security zone," eight kilometres south of Rashidiyeh, the southernmost camp in Lebanon. The Beirut government wants to stop the attacks to give Israel no excuse to stay in its self-proclaimed border buffer strip. President Elias Hrawi has asked the United States to press Israel to leave its 15-kilometre deep zone established in 1985 and the enclave of Jezzine, 20 kilometres east of Sidon. But Israel says its troops will stay in Lebanon until the withdrawal of all other foreign forces, including an estimated 40,000 Syrian soldiers in two thirds of the country.

Talabani: Autonomy agreement imminent

NTICOSIA (Agencies) — An agreement with the Iraqi government on Kurdish autonomy is imminent, a top Kurdish leader was quoted as saying Sunday. Jalal Talabani, interviewed by the Iraqi newspaper Al Thawra, described a meeting he had with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in Baghdad Thursday as "positive." Kurdish leaders are reported to be anxious to conclude an autonomy agreement before the departure of allied forces who have been protecting Kurds in northern Iraq since a failed rebellion after the Gulf war. "An announcement on an autonomous rule agreement is imminent," Mr. Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), was quoted as saying.



King, Arafat discuss coordination in peace efforts, situation in region

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter with agency dispatches

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein and Palestine President Yasser Arafat Sunday discussed coordination in peace efforts and reviewed the latest situation in the region. The King and Mr. Arafat, who arrived here from Baghdad after a four-hour visit to the Iraqi capital Saturday, exchanged views on various Arab and international issues and reviewed the situation of the Palestinian people living in the occupied territories and outside, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Taher Masri, Royal Court Chief Sherif Zeid Ben Shaker, the King's political advisor Adnan Abu Odeh, Foreign Minister Abdullah Ensour and a high-level PLO delegation including several members of the PLO Executive Committee. Earlier, Mr. Arafat held a round of talks with Mr. Arafat on the situation of the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation and Israel's arbitrary measures against them. Mr. Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), and Prime Minister Masri discussed efforts for peace in the Middle East based on international legitimacy and implementation of the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, Petra added.

The two leaders "noted Israel's intransigence and its refusal to accept peace," and said that the Jewish state was obstructing all peace efforts, the agency said. In comments to reporters after the talks, Mr. Arafat paid tribute to Jordanian-Palestinian relations and said that Jordan and the PLO were in close coordination in political issues and developments within and outside the Arab World. It was the first meeting between Mr. Arafat and Mr. Masri after the Masri government took office June 19. The PLO leader said the talks (Continued on page 5)

55 held in Israeli sweep through Nablus

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Israeli army lifted its curfew on the occupied West Bank's largest city Sunday after a major sweep in search of Palestinian activists. It said it arrested 55 people, and left leaflets warning others to surrender. Some 120,000 people in Nablus, who had been under curfew for 24 hours, found leaflets claiming that the army had proved its effectiveness and telling activists it was giving them "a chance to surrender to the authorities." The day-long raid, the largest in Nablus in more than a year, was on the casbah, the warren of alleys and market stalls that is the urban heartland of the 43-month-old Palestinian uprising. Military officials, requesting anonymity, insisted the operation was a success. Saeed Kenaan, a Nablus businessman, said it had been tried before. He said it was a failure. "It was the largest operation since the Israelis took Nablus in 1967," said Mr. Kenaan. "I saw at least 100 military vehicles surrounding the city. They were very quiet and polite but they searched every drawer and every cupboard and took the IDs of everyone, even the women," Mr. Kenaan said. The army said it had detained 100 people for questioning and 55 were still being held. The local military government collected taxes from 130 people during the operation, and 14 were detained for refusing to pay, sources said.

Tax evasion has been a common form of protest against the occupation. Troops clamped a curfew on Tulkarm refugee camp where Palestinians had thrown two firebombs at an army vehicle and a partial curfew on Jenin where soldiers killed a Palestinian Saturday. Mr. Kenaan said the army was "trying to intimidate the youngsters so they will surrender themselves or to tell the soldiers about the activists in the casbah." The leaflets, in Arabic, claimed the army had shown "that it can capture wanted people without hurting innocent residents." It said Palestinian lives were "being threatened by the wanted people who are becoming a threat to you and are making your lives difficult." In the occupied Gaza Strip, masked assailants stabbed and axed a 65-year-old Palestinian to death for allegedly collaborating with Israel, Arab reports said Sunday. An Arab prisoner was killed by his cellmate, also for alleged collaboration, the report said. IMF warns Israel The International Monetary Fund (IMF) warned Israel Sunday against borrowing to finance immigration until it was clear that arriving Soviet Jews would trigger strong economic growth. The advice from a visiting IMF (Continued on page 5)

Jordan's imports rose in 1990

AMMAN (AP) — The United States supplied most of Jordan's imports in 1990 and Iraq received most of the Kingdom's exports, said a government report published Sunday. Iraq was "the number one importer of Jordanian products," said the Foreign Trade Statistical Bulletin, published annually. The Kingdom has denied breaking U.N. sanctions against Baghdad. The bulletin, published by the Statistics Department, said that Iraq imported JD 273.1 million worth of Jordanian products last year. It did not specify whether the figure included the period following Aug. 2, when Iraq invaded Kuwait and an international economic embargo was imposed on Baghdad. Jordanian officials have estimated the volume of Iraqi-Jordanian trade at JD 335 million annually prior to the Gulf crisis. Jordan continues to import Iraqi oil, but it is not paying anything to Iraq. The cost of the oil is being subtracted from Iraq's \$310 million debt to the Kingdom, accumulated during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war. Jordan's total imports in 1990 reached an unprecedented JD 1.726 billion, up from JD 1.230 billion in 1989, the report said. It indicated a slight increase in Jordanian exports during the (Continued on page 5)

Renewed shooting in Yugoslavia; tension mounts over ultimatum

BELGRADE (Agencies) — Rival Serbs and Croats fought with machineguns, grenades and mortars Sunday, and tension rose in Slovenia and Croatia after Yugoslavia's leaders ordered the rebel republics' paramilitary forces to disband. Several people were wounded in heavy fighting between local Serbs and Croat police in the Croatian village of Prnjavor and neighbouring communities, police said. "It's a real battle in Prnjavor. It's a war," said one officer in the area, about 400 kilometres west of Belgrade. Heavy gunfire and bomb blasts were also heard in towns in eastern Croatia near the border with the republic of Serbia but there was no im-

mediate reports of casualties. As violence continued to wrack the ethnically torn republic, the federal presidency, Croatia and Slovenia approved an accord allowing the European Community (EC) to monitor a ceasefire among them, a news report said Sunday. A group of 30 to 50 EC monitors was to stay in Yugoslavia for a minimum of three months, according to the memorandum signed by representatives from the federal government, the Netherlands, which currently chairs the EC, and Slovenia and Croatia, the Tanjug news agency said. A preparatory EC group was already in Yugoslavia, and the rest of the group was to arrive but there was no (Continued on page 5)

word on when. The unarmed group was to monitor the terms of the accord reached on the island of Brioni last Monday, including the return of army units to their barracks and Slovenia's pledge to suspend for three months the implementation of its independence declaration. The federal presidency dispatched two of its members to Slovenia Sunday to discuss implementing the truce. The federal army sent tanks and troops against lightly armed Slovene militiamen last month after the republic declared independence June 25. At least 62 people were killed in Slovenia before a truce halted the fighting last week. (Continued on page 5)

Iraqis worried but defiant over fresh U.S. military threat

BAGHDAD (AP) — Dejection lined the faces of many Iraqis who learned Saturday of a sharp U.N. warning on nuclear-site inspection backed up by U.S. military threats. But there was also angry defiance and fervid support for President Saddam Hussein.

The risk for the allies was not only that such support could strengthen the leadership, but that it could deepen bitterness towards the United States and the West, diplomatic sources said.

In Baghdad, the prevailing mood seemed to be deep worry that Iraq, already buckling under crippling economic sanctions, can not take much more violence and instability.

"I was terribly depressed, really very unhappy" to hear of the U.N. warning, said a well-known writer who spoke on condition of anonymity. "I think Iraq has had enough. The Arab World has had enough."

But on busy Saddoun Street, a major shopping boulevard, questions about the threatened military strike drew a large crowd who voiced spontaneous support for President Saddam.

And there was much bitterness at U.S. President George Bush and the American "double standard" of condemning Iraq for its nuclear programme while permitting Israel to have one.

"Bush thinks he can destroy everything in Iraq. Why is he making such a threat again? Why?" asked Abdul Rahman, a university student.

"Why is America ignoring Israel's 20 nuclear bombs? Why doesn't Bush clean up the whole region? Why only Iraq? It just means that America is dishonest," declared another man, Haji Mohammad, who said he lost two sons in Kuwait and was prepared to sacrifice his other five.

His comments drew applause from about 20 bystanders.

At a military checkpoint in the city, stone-faced soldiers smiled when asked if they were worried. "Let him come and hit. We are afraid only of God, not of Bush," said one.

U.S. 'options'

The United States is reviewing options to force Iraq to reveal and destroy its nuclear weapons capability, President Bush's national security adviser said Saturday.

Brent Scowcroft stopped short of saying specifically that military options were in the works to force Iraqi compliance with a United Nations ceasefire agreement re-

quiring disclosure of nuclear facilities.

But he said: "We're looking at various things that might be necessary to bring about compliance." He declined to elaborate.

Asked if any military action could involve unilateral U.S. action, or would involve the U.S. allies from the Gulf war against Iraq, he said: "If there were anything involving the military, we would hope there would be coalition forces."

Mr. Scowcroft issued a warning to Iraq: "We would hope that (Iraq) would see the path of reason and back down, but we are looking at what might be necessary if (Iraq) doesn't... I hope (it) doesn't miscalculate."

Mr. Scowcroft made the comments during an interview on the Cable News Network's "Newsweek Saturday" programme from Mr. Bush's vacation home in Maine, and in a question-and-answer session with reporters afterwards.

"We think it is very important that (Iraq) comply with the terms of the U.N. resolution, particularly as they concern nuclear, biological and chemical weapons and equipment," Mr. Scowcroft said.

He underscored previously stated U.S. scepticism about Iraq's intentions and credibility. Mr. Scowcroft's remarks came as a U.N. inspection team said Saturday that Iraq had promised to provide an expanded list of its nuclear facilities.

Western diplomats said the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council had firmly warned Iraq to disclose its nuclear capabilities by July 25 or face serious consequences.

Mr. Scowcroft, saying he was not familiar with Iraq's Saturday promise, noted previous documents in which Iraq understated its nuclear capability, then later "admitted (it) had not come clean... maybe (it) is coming a little cleaner."

But he added, "my expectation would be that (Iraq) will continue to drag his feet as much as (it) thinks (it) can get away with."

Under the U.N. ceasefire terms that ended the Gulf war, Iraq is required to disclose all its nuclear, chemical and biological weapons capabilities in preparation for their destruction.

The United States says Iraqi disclosures so far have fallen short and that Baghdad has been trying to develop a nuclear weapon, Iraq denies it has a nuclear weapon in the works.



Li Peng

Li restates support for international conference on Mideast

DAMASCUS (AP) — Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng said Saturday that China supports Syrian proposals for an international peace conference on the Middle East under United Nations auspices.

At a news conference, the visiting Chinese leader said his country, a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council, "will play an enlarged role in the peace process" in the Middle East.

U.S. proposals for a peace conference have stalled on disagreement between Syria and Israel. Syria insists on a U.N. role in peace talks and has traditionally urged an international conference on the Middle East.

"Israel wants only a regional conference and we are sorry for that," Mr. Li said.

Israel rejects any U.N. role and has called for a regional conference that would include a formal opening and then break up into separate talks between Israel and each Arab state and the Palestinians.

Syrian Information Minister Mohammad Salmaan said Saturday that a Syrian reply to President George Bush's proposals for a peace conference will be sent to the U.S. leader soon.

Answering a question on Chinese arms sales to Syria, Mr. Li said that his meeting with Syrian officials did not touch on military issues. He noted Chinese arms deals were not "increasing the elements of provocation in the region."

Mr. Li's press conference came after six hours of talks Saturday with Syrian President Hafez al-Assad, the second meeting between the two leaders during the Chinese official's visit.

Presidential spokesman Jubran Kourieh said Mr. Assad and Mr. Li reviewed international developments concerning a solution to the Middle East problem under U.N. resolutions. Mr. Assad also had met with Mr. Li on Friday.

Earlier, Mr. Li conferred with Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Farouk Sharaa. He was scheduled to leave for Kuwait Sunday. Before arriving in Syria, he visited Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Iran.

At a press conference with Chinese journalists, Information Minister Salmaan said "Syria is supporting the removal of weapons of mass destruction from the Middle East region."

Mr. Salmaan added: "We hope that the world will play its role in turning the region into a zone free of weapons of mass destruction, because Israel has exploited the Gulf war to acquire sophisticated weapons, a matter which threatens the region."

Both Israel and Syria have accused each other of acquiring more weapons during and after the Gulf war.

Israel is believed to be the only nuclear power in the region. Syria and other Arab states are reported to have chemical and possibly biological weapons.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Congo, Israel resume diplomatic relations

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel announced Sunday that diplomatic relations had been resumed with the West African state of Congo after a 18-year break. The two governments "following the exchange of views on the international situation and in particular the political evolution in Africa" decided to reestablish relations "for the purpose of reinforcing peace and international solidarity," foreign ministry spokesman Yosef Amihud said. Israel and Congo also agreed "to intensify the cooperation and friendship between the two countries," Amihud added. Israel has extended agricultural and health aid to African nations it has ties with but a government official said that Israel "has always refrained from extending military aid." Congo and a host of other African nations broke relations with Israel after the 1973 war. Including Congo, 10 states have restored ties with Israel since 1982. The others are Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Liberia, Togo and Zaire. Malawi, Lesotho and Swaziland never severed ties with the Jewish state. The reestablishment process began after Israel returned the Sinai peninsula to Egypt as part of a 1979 treaty. Some African leaders viewed the restoration as a show of solidarity with a fellow African country. "There are indications that other countries are now interested in resuming ties with Israel," said the government source who spoke on condition of anonymity. "We are half way back now," he added.

British wife hopeful husband will be freed soon

LONDON (R) — The wife of Ian Richter, the British businessman jailed in Iraq, returned to London from Baghdad Saturday and said she was hopeful her husband would be released soon. Shirley Richter visited her husband in prison in Baghdad, where he is serving a life sentence for trying to bribe Iraqi officials. She said she had a "good meeting" with the undersecretary of state of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Baghdad. "I have had quite a number of meetings in Baghdad. There is progress and I'm hopeful. But I have nothing definitive," she said on arrival in London. Mr. Richter, a 45-year-old engineer, was jailed in 1986. A life sentence in Iraq is normally 25 years.

Cooper wants to help release hostages

LONDON (R) — British businessman Roger Cooper, released from jail in Iran three months ago, says he wants to help win the freedom of British hostages held in Lebanon. "Perhaps now is not the time for the British government but for a non-government person to get involved," Britain's Sunday Express newspaper quoted Mr. Cooper as saying. "I am still not sure whether I would be able to get back into Tehran. They may just arrest me again," he added. "I do not have a wife or children so I am an ideal person to go," said Mr. Cooper, 55. The Express said Mr. Cooper had held secret talks with officials of the British Foreign Office. It said Mr. Cooper planned to invite the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Robert Runcie, to join him in his efforts. Church envoy Terry Waite is among three Britons held by groups believed loyal to Iran in Lebanon. Nine other Westerners are also held captive there.

Algerians who fought for France march to demand rights

PARIS (AP) — Thousands of people marched peacefully in Paris and other cities Saturday to demand that the government act quickly to integrate Algerians who fought for France during Algeria's bloody war for independence.

Bearing placards in blue, white and red — the colours of the French flag — the march by 2,000 so-called "Harkis" and their families in the capital was accompanied by smaller protests in Perpignan, Nîmes and elsewhere. "Our rights, our charity, 'thirty years of promises, that's enough,'" read the banners carried by those trooping from the Place de la Bastille to the Place de la République in eastern Paris.

The marchers also demanded the release from jail of three youths arrested last month during violent clashes with police in the southern city of Narbonne.

The marches came a day after Premier Edith Cresson took her first official action to solve Harki grievances over poor housing, high unemployment, and exclusion from mainstream French society.

The frustration boiled over last month when the children and grand-children of Harkis rioted in the suburban ghettos and encampments where they live in Marbonne and Jouques.

The youths battled police with firebombs and stones, set cars alight, and barricaded streets with burning barricades. They stopped the riots after Ms. Cresson met with Harki representatives and promised to address their concerns rapidly.

On Friday, she published measures to take effect immediately that promise to recognise the Harkis as a community, increase professional training, and im-

Multi-party constitution wins huge 'Yes' in Mauritania

NOUAKCHOTT (R) — Mauritania voters gave a massive 'Yes' to the military government's new multi-party constitution but opposition groups accused it of manipulating the poll.

Final results of Friday's referendum showed 97.94 per cent of voters approved the draft constitution in a straight "yes-or-no" ballot, on a national turnout of just over 85 per cent.

"Once more you have proved your support for the national administration, which assures you of its determination to complete the democratic process in which the country is engaged," Interior Minister Cheikh Sidahmed Ould Baba said after announcing the results on national radio Saturday.

"This aim can only be achieved by closing ranks and strongly resisting anything which could harm our unity and the gains we have made."

Independent analysts had predicted a huge national "Yes" vote but a low turnout in Nouakchott, where Mauritania's underground opposition urged voters to boycott the referendum.

Government opponents say the new constitution gives the president excessive powers and fails to represent Mauritania's black, non-Arab speaking communities who form around a third of the two million population.

Earlier near-final results put Nouakchott's turnout at 80 per cent, compared with only 25 per cent in municipal elections last December.

"Frankly it's curious" one opposition activist said. "Everyone knew (the constitution) would be passed with a huge majority because any protest is suppressed. But anyone could see there were not that many people voting yesterday."

No official opposition comment was available. Leaders of a fledgling anti-government movement were arrested and sent into internal exile last month.

Journalists observing the referendum saw little sign of a rush to the polls. Many black Mauritians said they refused to vote and many people said bad organisation prevented them casting their ballot.

Some opposition supporters alleged local authorities threatened to withhold welfare food supplies unless they voted. Others complained that voting cards and voters' lists were in Arabic, a language few southern Mauritanians blacks can read.

Racial tension between the dominant Moors and black southerners exploded into violence two years ago in which hundreds of people were killed. Human rights groups accuse the government of torturing and killing hundreds of black citizens.

The new constitution, drafted by President Maouya Ould Sidahmed Taya's ruling Military Committee for National Salvation, replaces a document suspended after a coup in 1978.

Mauritania has been run on one-party lines virtually since independence from France in 1960.

Mr. Ould Taya, Mauritania's military leader since 1984, has promised multi-party elections before the end of the year.

Kurdish guerrillas kill 9 in southeast Turkey

ANKARA (Agencies) — Separatist Kurdish guerrillas killed nine people and wounded four other people in the latest violence to hit southeast Turkey, Anatolian news agency said Sunday.

It said fighters of the left-wing Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) attacked a home in Harmançik village in Kahramanmaraş province with guns and grenades, killing four people from one family and two other women.

Four other women in the house were wounded in the assault which occurred before midnight, it said.

Another group of 15 to 20 PKK guerrillas attacked Caglayanerit town in the same province at about the same time, killing a village guard and two teenaged relatives.

The PKK are intensifying their attacks on villages which they regard as pro-state and not on their side," Kahramanmaraş Provincial Governor Mustafa Demir told Anatolian.

Village guards and security forces clashed with the attackers in Harmançik, but the rebels escaped in the dark.

The PKK attacks were the latest in a wave of violence involving Turkey's estimated 10 million-strong Kurdish minority.

On Wednesday three people were killed during the funeral of a murdered Kurdish politician in the southeastern capital of Diyarbakir. A fourth man, 43-year-old Zulfikar Yager, died on Saturday of injuries suffered during the street clashes.

Eight PKK men and a village guard were killed in a gunbattle the same day in Sirvan, 200 kilometres to the east.

The violence has sparked a series of protests by Kurds at Turkish diplomatic missions and offices in Europe.

The victims in the Harmançik attack were Ramazan Kavaz, 50, his wife Sultan, 50, their grandson Ali and six-month-old granddaughter Gul. The other women who died were Fatma Daglar, 44, and her 12-year-old daughter Ayfer, Anatolian said.

Two of the wounded women were from the Kavaz family and two from the Daglar family.

Describing the Caglayanerit attack, Mr. Demir said: "A group of 15 to 20 terrorists attacked the house of the father-in-law of village guard Coban Gok, who rushed to the house to help, but was killed himself."

He said the gunmen shot dead the 12-year-old sister and 14-

year-old brother of Mr. Gok's wife before escaping.

In London, magistrates allowed bail Saturday to 51 Kurdish men and women arrested during a demonstration at the Turkish embassy and warned them not to go near the building.

All the Kurds were charged with criminally damaging Turkish government property at the embassy in London's exclusive Belgrave Square Friday. A security screen, paintings, carpets, furniture and fittings were mentioned in the charges.

The accused were split between two courts, Horseferry Road and Marylebone. They were ordered to the courts again Thursday and did not have to plead on their first appearance.

The demonstrators had said they wanted to attract attention to a clash Wednesday in the southeastern Turkish town of Diyarbakir in which three Kurds were killed during the funeral of Kurdish politician Vedat Aydin.

The embassy demonstrators surrendered to armed British police in the street outside after spending about 80 minutes in the building.

Kurds picketed Marylebone Court, one carrying a placard reading: "Stop Turkish state terrorism against Kurdish people."

Turkish airlines office hit

A petrol bomb was hurled at the Brussels office of Turkish airlines Saturday but caused no injuries or damage, police said.

A Turkish airlines employee said the bomb smashed against the office window and burst into flames in the street.

A Turkish journalist said he had received an anonymous telephone call claiming the attack in the name of Dev Sol (Revolutionary Left), the extreme left-wing Turkish movement.

Police said it was too early to tell whether the claim was genuine.

Sherif Sayin, Brussels correspondent of the daily Hurriyet, told Reuters the male caller said the attack was a protest against the killing of Dev Sol members by Turkish security forces in Istanbul Friday night.

Turkey said 10 Dev Sol members died during the crackdown on the group. Mr. Sayin said the caller claimed 11 people had been killed.

Dev Sol claimed more than 20 bomb attacks on Western targets and the murder of two Americans in Turkey during the Gulf crisis.

Tourists and endangered turtles coexist on Cyprus

NICOSIA (R) — Boats, sunbeds and umbrellas are banned on one of the best beaches on the holiday island of Cyprus where thousands of green sea and loggerhead turtle eggs are hatching after weeks beneath the sands.

Tourists are tolerated at Lara Bay in northwest Cyprus, next to the only turtle hatchery in the Mediterranean. Swimming is allowed but the paraphernalia of the smart seaside-set is not.

"Tourists can coexist with the turtles provided their activities are strictly restricted to swimming," Andreas Demetropoulos, director of the Cyprus Fisheries Department which runs the hatchery, told Reuters.

Commenting on reports that one of Germany's largest tour operators is to stop booking holidaymakers into beach hotels on the Greek island of Zakynthos to protect turtle nesting sites, Mr. Demetropoulos said hotels would never be built close to Lara.

"There must be no buildings at all anywhere near the beach," he said.

Local environmentalists fear the island's powerful hotel industry will gradually encroach upon the remote Akamas peninsula from the tinsel-town resort of Paphos.

Turtle hatchlings are already at risk from natural predators as they scurry to the sea, drawn by the reflection of the moonlight. Lights near the beach can disorientate them causing them to die of dehydration after they head inland instead.

Fisheries department officials, who patrol the beaches day and night to ensure the measures are enforced, transfer many of the eggs to nests at the turtle hatchery, a stretch of beach which is a no-go area.

"They have already started to hatch and we expect to release about 6,000 hatchlings to the sea this summer," Mr. Demetropoulos said.

The European-funded hatchery has been operating since 1978 and Mr. Demetropoulos said he expected the first generation of turtles released 12 years ago to return to the beach to breed within a few years.

The environmentalists fear the government, which has pledged to make Akamas a national park, may make concessions to developers.

French envoy says Lebanon, France working on better ties

BEIRUT (R) — A French envoy said Sunday Lebanon and France were working to improve relations despite rebel General Michel Aoun's nine-month stay at the French embassy in Beirut.

Asked how links could be normalised with the problem of General Aoun yet to be solved, Patrick Leclerc, head of the North Africa and Middle East section at the Paris Foreign Ministry, said he saw no hindrance.

"There is no problem normalising French-Lebanese relations. They are part of history in their duration and their continuation," he told reporters after talks with President Elias Hrawi.

France gave Gen. Aoun political asylum at its embassy after he was driven from his East Beirut stronghold by Syrian and Lebanese troops in a land and air assault on Oct. 13 last year.

The Syrian-backed Lebanese government says the Christian general will only be allowed to leave Lebanon when he hands

over \$32 million held in European banks.

The government says he collected the money in illegal taxes. Gen. Aoun holds that the money was donated by his supporters and therefore is his.

Gen. Aoun and his troops waged an abortive six-month war in 1989 to expel Syrian forces from Lebanon.

Beirut is keen for good relations with France because it needs foreign aid to rebuild after 16 years of civil war and Western support to press for an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon.

Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Bouze said Saturday the French government had made some suggestions on how to resolve the Aoun issue but more time was needed for agreement.

The conservative Al Diyar newspaper said in an unattributed report Sunday that negotiations on the issue have bogged down because Aoun refused conditions proposed by the French.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 Les Grandes Batailles du passé
19:00 News in French
19:15 Weekly Sports Magazine
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Empty Nest
21:10 Murder de wrote
22:00 News in English
22:20 Separate but equal

PRAYER TIMES

04:01 Fajr
05:34 (Sunrise) Doha
12:41 Dhuh
16:22 'Asr
19:48 Maghreb
21:21 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Switich
Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Normal summer weather will prevail and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman Min./max. temp. 22 / 32
Aqaba 26 / 40
Dhahran 20 / 36
Jordan Valley 24 / 39

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN:
Dr. Yousef Nashed 896301
Dr. Bassam Karadobeh 796200
Dr. Issam Hawamdeh 624630
Dr. Razi Abu Zein (-)
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 623055
Nairookh pharmacy 623672
Al Salem pharmacy 636730
Yaoub pharmacy 644945
Shmisani pharmacy 637690

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Yousef Nashed 896301
Dr. Bassam Karadobeh 796200
Dr. Issam Hawamdeh 624630
Dr. Razi Abu Zein (-)
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 623055
Nairookh pharmacy 623672
Al Salem pharmacy 636730
Yaoub pharmacy 644945
Shmisani pharmacy 637690

REPAIRS

ABDUL: Dr. Amin Abu Eridah (-)
Al Sharaf pharmacy 275825
ZARQA:
Dr. Ramez Atallah (-)
Khalifah pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 021111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 63031
Hotel Complaints 605909
Police Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone
Repairs 623101
Abdul Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khaleel Maternity, J. Amn. 642816
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn. 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Mahbas, J. Amman 636140
Pakstine, Shamsani 664714
Shamsani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muasher Hospital 6672279
The Islamic, Abdul 6661717
Al-Ash, Abdul 6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77111/26
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 60224058
Al-Bashir 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital 07983323
Zarqa National Hospital 07990560
Ibn Sina Hospital 07986732
BRID:
Princess Basma Hospital 02127555

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53300-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
07:30 Beirut (RJ)
12:30 London (RJ)
13:15 Frankfurt (RJ)
14:00 Cairo (RJ)
14:45 Abu Dhabi, Doha (RJ)
15:25 Moscow (RJ)
16:00 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
16:45 Dubai, Doha (RJ)
17:30 Muscat (RJ)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
07:30 Beirut (RJ)
12:30 London (RJ)
13:15 Frankfurt (RJ)
14:00 Cairo (RJ)
14:45 Abu Dhabi, Doha (RJ)
15:25 Moscow (RJ)
16:00 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
16:45 Dubai, Doha (RJ)
17:30 Muscat (RJ)

OTHER CARRIERS (Terminal 2)

13:30 Cairo (MS)
14:00 Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF)
15:25 Paris (AF)
16:00 Moscow (RJ)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
07:30 Beirut (RJ)
12:30 London (RJ)
13:15 Frankfurt (RJ)
14:00

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates France

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday sent a cable to French President Francois Mitterrand congratulating him on the anniversary of the French Revolution. The King said the French revolution was a landmark in human history and its external message of freedom, equality and fraternity would always serve as a model to world civilisation. The King added: "The close friendship between Jordan and France is a source of pride for us as long as our relations derive their strength from our commitment to freedom, democracy, and respect of human rights and international legitimacy." The King voiced hope for a continuing intensification of efforts to achieve a just and durable peace in the Middle East.

Queen inaugurates exhibition

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Sunday opened the second industrial and metal furniture exhibition, held at the Universal Expo Centre on the University of Jordan road. Taking part in the week-long event are 20 local factories manufacturing furniture, carpet, paints and other household items. The opening ceremony was also attended by Princess Wijdan Ali, ministry of industry and trade secretary general and senior ministry officials, in addition to members of Amman Chamber of Industry.

Princes condole Al Majali family

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, and their Royal Highnesses Prince Faisal Ibn Al Hussein and Ghazi Ibn Mohammad Sunday visited Al Majali family in Yarout and offered their condolences over the death of Abdul Wahab Al Majali who passed away Thursday.

Jordan, Switzerland sign grant agreement

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian and the Swiss governments Sunday signed a grant agreement, under which the Swiss government will grant Jordan \$40 million to help it overcome the negative effects the Gulf crisis had on its economy. The agreement was signed for the Jordanian government by Planning Minister Ziad Fariz and for the Swiss government by its ambassador in Amman.

Senate to discuss draft laws

AMMAN (Petra) — The Upper House of Parliament's Legal Committee will meet Tuesday morning to discuss draft laws referred to it. These laws include the defence draft law for the year 1990, the illegal profiteering draft law for the year 1990, the 1990 economic crimes draft law, the penal code draft law for 1990, the 1973 temporary law No. 49 for the national air carrier, the 1974 temporary law No. 27 for the national air carrier, the 1984 temporary law No. 24 for the national air carrier and temporary law No. 6 for the year 1976 for the Pension Fund.

Ministry to update regulations

AMMAN (Petra) — Information Minister Khaled Karaki has formed a committee entrusted with updating legislations and regulations at the ministry and its various departments and corporations. The committee, which is headed by the Information Ministry Secretary General Trad Al Fayez, includes the director general of the Jordanian News Agency, Ali Safadi, Director General of the Jordan Television and Broadcasting Corporation Radi Al Khas, the director of the Jordanian information office and the ministry's legal advisor. The formation of the committee was prompted by the developments which Jordan has witnessed and came in line with the principles and the spirit of the National Charter and the new publications and publishing law.

Minister attends graduation

AMMAN (Petra) — Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Rayef Nijem Sunday attended the graduation of girls who have completed vocational training courses organised by the ministry's Islamic Cultural Centre. Mr. Nijem stressed the importance of training and rehabilitating women to contribute to the improvement of living conditions of their families through increasing the household income. He said Islam had encouraged work and preferred working people to the unemployed. Director of the Women's Affairs Department at the ministry Azizeh Nairoukh said that the girls' graduation coincided with the Hijra anniversary. The courses included typing in both Arabic and English, flower arrangement, drawing on cloth, glass and pottery, sewing and textile industry.

Jordan, Syria review security cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Public Security Department Director Major General Fadel Ali Fahed Sunday received a delegation from the Syrian Ministry of Interior headed by Director of the Criminal Police Department Maj. Gen. Mohammad Khadour. The Syrian delegation is currently on a six-day official visit to Jordan for talks with officials on increasing scope of cooperation in the security field. In an arrival statement, Maj. Gen. Khadour said talks with his Jordanian counterparts would focus on two major subjects: coordination in the field of exchanging criminals and intensifying efforts to combat drug trafficking from the producing countries to the consuming countries through Jordan and Syria.

Zarqa to have nine new schools

ZARQA (Petra) — The Ministry of Education is currently building nine schools in the Zarqa Governorate, to be open by the beginning of the next scholastic year, according to ministry sources. Since the ministry began its school expansion projects, 14 schools have been built in the governorate and are operating, the sources said. The cost of the schools under construction and those currently operating is JD 10,745,000, the sources said.

Al Shobak fort undergoes renovation

MAAN (Petra) — A team from the General Department of Antiquities has started renovation and maintenance work at Al Shobak fortress. Shobak sub-district Governor Mahmoud Al Nu'aimat said the department had allocated a sum of JD 25,000 for the renovation and maintenance works. He said 20 Shobak citizens were employed to do the maintenance work.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITION

Embroidery exhibition at Jordan Intercontinental Hotel.

FILM

French film entitled "Pour la peine d'un fil" at the French Cultural Centre — 8 p.m.

Abolition of martial law requires more judicial staff, judges — minister

AMMAN (J.T.) — The abolition of martial law in Jordan will result in the shifting of numerous cases that had been referred to military courts in the past to the civilian courts, which means there will be an urgent need for a greater number of judicial staff and judges with a higher standard and efficiency, Minister of Justice Tayseer Kanaan said Sunday.

"Accordingly, the Jordanian Judicial Institute will be expected to supply the required number of qualified staff for this mission," the minister said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

In his government policy statement to Parliament last Thursday, Prime Minister Taher Masri pledged that the judiciary will remain as one of the three independent pillars of democracy, acting along with the executive and legislative authorities.

"The government stresses its absolute keenness on respecting the functions of the judiciary system and will promote its work now that the decision has been taken to repeal the martial law," Mr. Masri had told Parliament.

The prime minister also said that the judiciary system would be developed with new expertise and specialisations, especially in delicate and technical issues, a



Tayseer Kanaan

process which requires further training and modernisation of the system.

Mr. Kanaan told Petra that in response to the directives contained in His Majesty King Hussein's letter of appointment to the government and in harmony with the democratic trend, the government has now embarked on measures to abolish martial law.

"But having realised the emergence of a legislative gap once the abolition of martial law takes effect, the government has presented several draft laws to the

Lower House of Parliament to fill this void," the minister said.

He added that all regulations under the martial law, in force in Jordan since 1967, will be cancelled once Parliament has endorsed the new draft laws.

Mr. Kanaan said that martial law exists only in theory because its regulations do not exist in practice following the cancellation of regulations included in that law.

"The government plans to submit to Parliament a draft amendment to the State Security Court law, because the present law is obsolete and was never applied because of martial law and its regulations," the minister said.

He said that the government planned to submit the draft amendment to Parliament during the present extraordinary session. Following the endorsement of the draft amendment, numerous cases that had earlier been referred to the State Security Court will be shifted to civilian courts, leaving the State Security Court to handle crimes considered detrimental to the state's internal or external security. Its verdicts would be subject to appeal.

UNESCO employees uncertain of future after offices move

By Maha Addasi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Reports last Tuesday about moving the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) offices, in Jordan for six years, back to Beirut came as a blow to Jordanian employees and other local staff members who feel that very soon they may be unemployed.

Although some UNESCO activities will be monitored from Jordan as part of the decentralisation policy adopted by the director general of the United Nations headquarters in Paris, and approved in 1976, with the purpose of decentralising its secretariat, the major bulk of the work will be in Beirut, which makes it virtually impossible for all Jordanian employees to keep a job at UNESCO's local office. Officials at UNESCO, however, say that jobs will be made possible for their employees.

"We will give priority to our employees to work with us in Beirut," Dr. Salah Yacoub, programme specialist for Education for Rural Development and longtime employee of UNESCO said. "If for some reason they cannot relocate to Beirut it is our responsibility to find jobs for them here in Jordan."

But employees still feel uncertain about the outcome. "We still don't know whether we have a job in Beirut or not, and if we do not, there is nowhere in Jordan we could get the same salaries we get here," one employee said. He

gave the example of a secretary who gets over JD 300 while elsewhere she may, at best, get half that salary.

Other employees said that the move would be a great loss to Jordan in many ways. "Our employees go on an average of seven missions every year using Royal Jordanian airline, which is also the airline that provides UNESCO with air freight services. When officials come to Jordan they stay at Jordan's hotels, where conferences are also held," an employee who requested not to be named said.

"We also spend about JD 200,000 on stationary each year that we buy from Jordan and send to other UNESCO offices abroad," said another employee. "Sometimes we even buy computers and cars and send them to the offices abroad. The move will mean that Jordan, which is already suffering economically, will lose yet another source of income. And what is to guarantee that other international organisations will not start to leave Jordan too," the employee said.

Dr. Yacoub said the move did not come as a total surprise. "It was always known that our move from Lebanon was on a temporary basis. When Lebanon was rendered unsafe the office was moved to Paris for six years and then to Jordan in order to be in the Arab region. Now it is safe to go back to our original place," he said.

Another informed source said that the move did not mean that "we are being ungrateful to Jordan. We

appreciate very much what the Jordanian government has done for us in order to facilitate our stay. It gave us the building, and it has done its utmost in providing anything and everything we needed during our stay. The reason we have to leave is that we have to abide by the legal agreement, between the Lebanese government and UNESCO, that states that the regional office for the Arab states is in Lebanon," the source, who preferred anonymity, said.

One employee said that the main inconvenience for him was that his children would have to be moved out of their schools in the middle of the scholastic year.

The decision was that the move should take place so that the office in Beirut will be in full operation by April 1992. That means the employees must start moving by the end of 1991. So far, it has been decided that only the employees will move to Beirut leaving their spouses and dependents in Jordan until a later date.

A mission will visit Lebanon in September 1991 to assess whether Lebanon is safe. Only then will UNESCO employee's families be allowed to go and live in Beirut," an official said.

The decision to move back to Lebanon came after a meeting between the Lebanese minister of education and fine arts and UNESCO Director General Federico Mayor on July 6. During the meeting means of cooperation, between the two parties, for the reconstruction of Lebanon were discussed.

Human rights official deplores Israeli practices

By Odeh Odeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A leading member of the Human Rights Watch Organisation (HRWO) has concluded a two-day visit here during which he conducted investigations into the plight of the Jordanian and Palestinian returnees from Kuwait and the Gulf countries and after a visit to the occupied Arab territories to study the Palestinian conditions under Israeli occupation rule.

In a statement to Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times, Eric Rosenthal said that he planned to submit a report to the organisation's headquarters in New York outlining the situation of the Palestinians under Israeli rule and of those who returned from Kuwait in the wake of the Gulf war.

Mr. Rosenthal described the situation in the Israeli-occupied territories in general and inside Israeli jails in particular as being appalling. "The treatment of Palestinian youths by Israeli troops is inhuman and brutal," he said.

"The HRWO had earlier dispatched several teams to the occupied territories and came out with reports deploring the Israeli inhuman practices there, but what I saw inside Israeli jails during this visit gave me a cause of real concern," Mr. Rosenthal

said. "Apart from the inhuman treatment, the detainees are crowded into tiny cells, forbidden to meet their lawyers and given insufficient food for their sustenance," Mr. Rosenthal said.

"My mission during the visit to the occupied territories, which has just ended, was to identify not only the living conditions of the Palestinian detainees, but also Israel's way of investigating into the killing of Palestinian youth involved in the intifada," he said.

The Israeli authorities show no interest in witnesses, whenever a killing occurs, but are rather anxious to hear from the soldiers involved in the killing of the Palestinian youths and they take their decisions based on the soldiers' testimony alone," Mr. Rosenthal said. Furthermore, he said, soldiers firing at the Palestinians are not subjected to trial even though they sometimes fire without being given orders to do so.

HRWO had conducted an investigation into the firing against

the Palestinians at Al Aqsa Mosque in October of last year and issued a condemnation against the Israeli authorities' behaviour in that particular case, Mr. Rosenthal added.

"I really wish the American administration officials and President (George) Bush would read our reports about the situation in order to realise the facts about the situation," Mr. Rosenthal said.

"The Palestinians are given unfair trials and the conditions of Palestinian residents was rapidly deteriorated in the wake of the Gulf war which rendered many Palestinians without proper means of sustenance as they lost their source of income," he said.

He added that his organisation had earlier issued several reports about Iraqi human rights, condemning the U.S. air raids on Iraqi cities and civilian centres.

"Our reports," Mr. Rosenthal said, "are objective and present the real facts about situations everywhere and in line with the rules and regulations of the United Nations Organisation."

Symposium tackles policy, patterns of consumption

AMMAN (Petra) — Participants in a one-day symposium on reducing consumption, organised by the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS), Sunday called for the formation of a higher national committee to undertake studies and research aimed at identifying patterns of consumption.

The committee, which will group representatives from the private and public sectors, will guide GUVS on how to best contribute to preparing programmes designed to ration consumption and to activate the role of the consumer protection society to serve as an authority and a guide to all issues on reducing consumption.

They also recommended that an information bank on consumption and best selling commodities, as well as defining essential needs, be set up.

At the conclusion of the symposium, participants also called for a national policy on pricing, importation, exportation and monitoring of food storage to avoid attempts by some people to

hoard commodities in anticipation of a price rise.

They further called for ensuring a distribution policy where water resources, energy and food will be distributed fairly.

Participants discussed four working papers presented by Dr. Abdullah Al Khatib, president of GUVS, Dr. Majd Khairi from the Consumer Protection Society, Dr. Mohamad Ibrahim Obeidat, from the University of Jordan, and Mohammad Jabbar from the Consumer Protection Society.

In his paper, Dr. Khatib said that the rationalisation process is targeted at the individual who is the producer and the consumer of goods. He called for undertaking research on patterns of individual's consumption to organise his life and direct him to a balanced consumption pattern. He stressed the role of the Supply Ministry in drawing up the general supply and consumption policy, and providing the essential commodities which are needed to achieve strategic food security.

In the second paper, Dr. Khairi

spoke about exaggerated use of foodstuff, furniture, electric equipment and cars. He said that overconsumption has a negative impact on the development process.

Dr. Obeidat, who presented the third working paper, discussed the means of protecting consumers and reviewed the major dimensions of such a programme. He voiced concern over the waste of resources such as water, food and luxury goods. He also called on GUVS to sponsor a nationwide economic dialogue between consumers and producers.

The fourth paper, presented by Dr. Jabbar, called for ensuring coordination between the quality control laboratories.

Dr. Jabbar suggested that a committee assume responsibility for controlling imports at the land, air and sea outlets and called for the formation of a higher technical committee for industrial consultations. The committee will also be responsible for reviewing and explaining lab test results.

Jordan urges investigation of Israeli drug-pushing among Palestinians

By Vesna Masharqa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan has appealed to international organisations and human rights groups to investigate alleged Israeli inhuman practices specially drawing attention to the spreading of drug and encouraging drug addiction among Palestinian youth in the occupied Arab territories.

The appeal came from Dr. Waleed Sarhan, president of the Jordanian Psychiatric Rehabilitation Society (JPRS), who said in a statement that since the outbreak of the Palestinian intifada a growing number of Palestinians have been taking up the habit of using drug encouraged by the Israeli authorities who facilitate the distribution of drugs among Palestinian youth.

Drug addicts who came to me from the occupied territories for treatment told me that the Israeli prison authorities are in the practice of injecting heroin into the veins of detainees for almost a whole week until they become drug addicts," Dr. Sarhan said.

He said that some of the detainees normally seek medical assistance in order to kick off the addiction, but some become drug addicts "thus dropping out of the intifada and giving up their national struggle."

Dr. Sarhan said that he had

treated more than ten people so far, but he cannot reach hundreds of others living in the occupied territories who cannot make the trip to Jordan.

Dr. Sarhan said he had been told about these facts from the drug addicts he treated in his clinic.

Dr. Sarhan, who works at the drug addicts treatment centre in Fuhes Hospital, said that among his patients were a number of drug addicts who used to sell 12.5 grammes of Israeli-supplied heroin every day for five years. "One of these drug addicts, providing the information, told me that he supplied heroin to at least 5,000 people over the past five years," Dr. Sarhan said.

In order to encourage this dangerous habit among the Palestinians, Dr. Sarhan added, whenever a drug addict or drug pusher is apprehended he is only remanded in custody for one or two nights and released so as to resume his practice of distributing drugs to other Palestinians.

The Jordanian Psychiatric Rehabilitation Society has repeatedly asked Amnesty International to investigate these practices, but the London-based human rights organisation report that its teams were always denied permission to investigate into this case.

"We are now asking the Drug Prevention Society in Arab Jerusalem to investigate, the drug

problem and to inform the Jordanian society about its findings," Dr. Sarhan said.

"But indeed we have little hope of getting correct figures and facts about the drug situation because Israeli authorities are imposing restrictions on all doctors involved in this investigation," Dr. Sarhan added.

According to Palestinian sources, most of the Palestinian detainees in Israeli jails are aged between 14 and 20 and most apt to fall victim to the temptation of using drugs.

"We must be very careful in revealing this problem, otherwise, it may cause panic in the occupied territories. Personally, I believe that we should act on two levels: through the official health and humanitarian organisations and through the mass media. The official way will lend a higher credibility to denouncing the continued Israeli crimes against the Palestinians and to secure international, legislative protection for the Palestinians. The mass media work is to be aimed at educating people about drug addiction and its deteriorating social and medical effects, and to give clues on how to deal with the problem, once it is acknowledged. Personal awareness is a very important factor in struggling against the Israeli unscrupulous measures," he concluded.

One man's quest for peace

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A Jordanian traveller who is touring the world on foot is back in Amman for a month-long rest before embarking on the last phase of his voyage in the next month during which he wants to advocate the cause of peace.

Carrying flags of Jordan and the host country he is visiting at the time, along with an olive branch symbol of peace, Walid Amayreh had set out on the first part of his trip in October 1987, visiting Arab, Western European and African countries and stopping to talk to people about peace and justice.

At the end of the first phase of the trip, during which he covered 27,000 kilometres in 55 countries, Mr. Amayreh was received by His Majesty King Hussein who encouraged him in his endeavour and supplied him with a note recommending that people offer him help whenever possible.

The traveller has encountered numerous problems in obtaining visas at border areas in many Arab and foreign countries. He has also suffered after eating African food, but said that his knowledge of English, French, Spanish, Romanian and Arabic has helped him complete the first part of the trip safely.

According to Mr. Amayreh, the second part of his round the world walk began in July 1989 and ended on July 3, 1991, with his return to Jordan.

In the second part of the voyage, he visited Eastern Europe, Latin America and the northern American countries, covering 10,000 kilometres in 63 countries.

"While in Romania I met my



The Jordanian traveller meets in Athens with former Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu (file photo)

Romanian wife and we got married there. My wife accompanied me to four countries before returning with me to Jordan," Amayreh said.

"The second phase of my voyage was beset with difficulties and hardship not only connected with the visas at the border areas, but also because many border authorities demanded that I provide evidence that I possess sufficient cash for my stay," he said.

"In some Arab and foreign countries, I was imprisoned for may ideas and views about war and peace and in the U.S. I was detained with many other anti-war protesters during the Gulf war."

"In view of the situation, I had to change my slogan of 'Walking Trip for Peace' to 'Stop More Wars,' he said.

In the United States, the news of anti-war protests were almost totally ignored by the official information services and most of the press because the American administration wanted to conceal the facts, Mr. Amayreh said.

In addition, I was robbed in the U.S., Spain, Germany, France and Poland, losing belongings and cash, he said. The police were unable to help him recover any of his possessions, he said.

During the trip in the Western

countries, he felt that public opinion was mobilised by governments against the Arabs especially during the Gulf crisis, and the people hated anything that looked or sounded Arabic, he said.

Mr. Amayreh said he was spending nights in a sleeping bag and carried with him sufficient food and medicine. He also received some help in a number of countries, most of Arab.

Mr. Amayreh said he planned to finish the walk in Sydney, Australia, in December of 1993. "In the coming trip I plan to visit 40-countries in Asia, the Far East and Australia. I will not take my wife along with me because the trip is tiring," he said.

Asked what he hoped to achieve from the trip, Mr. Amayreh said he wanted to contribute to the cause of world peace.

But, he added: "I am indeed disappointed by the hypocritical attitude of the people in the rich nations and their hostile attitude towards the Third World."

In addition, Mr. Amayreh said he hoped to be included in the Guinness Book of Records as the around the world traveller who visited all 168 countries of the United Nations.

JORDAN TIMES
TEL. 667171

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

جوردن تايمز يومية عربية سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

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Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Dangerous game at a critical stage

NOT SURPRISINGLY perhaps, the Muslim Brotherhood movement has decided to deny the government its support in the upcoming vote of confidence in the Lower House of Parliament.

The Brotherhood's short statement Sunday cited "the present stage and its requirements on the internal, Arab and international levels, the make-up of the government and its policy statement" as reasons for its decision. Earlier in the week it was predicted that the movement might decide to "float" it votes and leave it to individual members in the House to determine which way they wanted their votes to go. Now that a formal decision has been taken, however, the onus of deciding the fate of the government rests with other blocs and mainly on undecided independents. The government is certain to win the vote of the National and the Democratic Blocs. But it still needs the backing of the independent Islamists, the Constitution Bloc and the Liberals who are still not completely decided over the issue, just as much as it needs the independents, especially those described as mustauzeeren or ministerial hopefuls who remain in the process of weighing their options.

The Brotherhood's resolution at this stage creates a battleground for the movement and the government to cross swords and see what happens. Any side that is able to muster 41 votes will win. The government is confident that it will emerge victorious, if only because its defeat does not leave the country with many credible options. Either Parliament will be dissolved in that case or an older hand will be asked to form a new government — both being bitter pills to swallow by our honourable deputies.

If such a scenario materialises, anti-democratic forces, especially those political figures who feel they were replaced forever by a new generation of prime ministers and ministers, will be jubilant. So will the mustauzeeren in Parliament and outside of it.

It is our sincere belief that Jordan should not face such a setback as the failure to vote in a clean and progressive government. While we understand why the Brotherhood is withholding support from Mr. Masri and his colleagues, we cannot understand why a handful of mainly independent self-described liberal deputies should subject the country to a potentially dangerous political crisis at this critical stage and for no good reason at all. Mr. Masri and his team have not been tried yet but they certainly deserve a chance to be heard and to be tested.

Until our cherished democratisation process matures and prospers, Jordanians cannot afford to quarrel over petty ambitions while the country suffers from difficult problems and great challenges. The government of the day, especially that is honest and progressive as Mr. Masri's, deserves all the support that progressive and forward-looking forces can extend to it.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THERE is no doubt that the United States has found in the Iraqi nuclear facilities an excuse for a fresh aggression on the Iraqi people at a time when Baghdad has opened all its facilities for U.N. inspection teams, giving all the needed information about its nuclear programmes, said Al Rai Arabic daily Sunday. The paper said that the mandate given to the Americans during the Gulf war does not exist any more and Washington has no legitimate right to launch an aggression against any U.N. member country under the U.N. umbrella. The new aggression, being plotted by the United States and its Israeli ally against Iraq is a capital crime and a sin committed not only by the U.S.-Israeli alliance but rather by all the U.N. Security Council members colluding with this alliance, the paper noted. It said that while the United States and other U.N. members find an excuse in the presence of an Iraqi nuclear programme to launch a fresh aggression, Israel is allowed to build up an arsenal of mass destruction weapons helped by the United States and other Western nations. The U.S. threats directed against Iraq, the paper said, were coupled by preparations by the Israeli military establishment for a new strike against the Iraqi people in a bid to humiliate the Arabs and subjugate them to the U.S.-Israeli domination. The paper said that while Israel is allowed to defy the world organisation and the international legitimacy by holding on to occupied Arab lands, the Iraqi people are being subjected to a new crime and a new conspiracy. The paper said that it is time for the Arabs to wake up and realise the facts about their situation and it is time to put an end to brutal practices by the Western countries to subjugate the Arab Nation.

A columnist in Al Rai Arabic daily referred Sunday to tours of hospitals and health centres around the Kingdom by Health Minister Mamdouh Al Abbadi and said that they were needed before the minister can embark on practical measures to improve the health services in the country. Nazih said that the new health minister realises too well the weaknesses in the health system and that is why he started his tours in the south where life is so hard and the people suffer from malnutrition and exposed to all kinds of diseases. The writer said that the Health Ministry shoulders a serious responsibility towards providing preventive treatment to the people of the south before all other districts and the minister realises the importance of implementing the long-awaited comprehensive health insurance scheme for all citizens of Jordan, as part of upgrading services to the public. He noted that as the country suffers from a shortage of doctors to serve in various regions, especially in remote areas of Jordan, the Kingdom suffers from unemployment among large numbers of doctors. The writer also reminded his readers of earlier promises given by former health ministers about improving the health situation in Jordan only to be soon forgotten later. He said as the citizens of this country hear fresh promises from the new health minister, they wonder if these will have the same fate as others before him.

East, West can positively fuse despite prejudices

The following article is reprinted from Label France, the magazine of the French Ministry of External Affairs. Mr. Meddeb is a Paris-based Tunisian writer.

By Abdelwahab Meddeb

I FOUND myself at odds with France's official position, from a political standpoint. I couldn't agree with it. I continue to think there could have been a more independent and less bellicose way to deal with Saddam Hussein. France was perfectly within its rights to take up cause against him; but in going as far as it did, in lining up behind the Americans.

Politically, I stand among those in France who were against the war and believed it could have been avoided. That attitude shouldn't cause any shock. We live in a democracy, after all, and nobody is obliged to agree with the government of this country, nor identify himself with the majority view of the political class or intellectuals.

The democratic experience, despite the odd claim to the contrary, leaves room for opinions like mine. One can move politically against the grain even if, in standing apart, one risks being considered an "oddball." True, during the Gulf crisis nobody denied your right to protest if you happened to be North African or a Frenchman bearing an Arab name. But I know that native-born Frenchmen who took a position similar to mine during the conflict ran the risk of being thought "oddballs."

In many ways, the crisis was highly revealing. Enough has been said and written since Aug. 2 — and especially so during the 40 days of military conflict to provide ample food for thought and analysis. The events shed light on the state of peoples' minds and on their society. In that way it was a revelation in the mystical sense of the word, an unveiling.

My first conclusion concerns the staggering power of the media and the skill with which it orchestrated, manipulated and dictated the way people saw events. On

the political and sociological level, the democratic experience functioned insofar as it allowed North Africans and French citizens of North Africa or Arab origin to voice their disapproval whenever it was possible, in word and in writing. The existence of so many "free" radio stations and associations proved beneficial in promoting free speech. People who were barred from expressing themselves in the mainstream media — or weren't invited to do so — had a place to air their views.

In general, however, a constant effort was made to thrust the "correct" interpretation of events upon the public, an effort that involved manipulation, hypocrisy and lies. I won't establish an inventory of those lies which some people are only too anxious now to forget. But, for the sake of democracy, we will have to re-examine those falsifications one day; they can't simply be locked away in a closet.

To be fair, events in the Gulf unfolded very quickly, with one development chasing another from the television screen. Speed and its corollary — forgetfulness — is a hallmark of the times. The mind can't keep up with the pace. But there is cause on occasion to be stubborn and anachronistic, to refuse to turn the page. In the case of the Gulf we must continue to reflect on what the crisis revealed. That examination shows there was a flaw in the democratic principle. The all-powerful media functioned like a one-party system, pulling out all the stops to justify a preventive war whose importance went far beyond Iraq: an Iraq that, in the event, suffered a rain of destruction without having the means to fight back. It must be recalled that Iraq is a small, mainly rural country of 17 million inhabitants that only recently emerged from the pre-industrial era, with a GNP eight times less than France's. In truth, what we saw was a non-war that led to the methodical and fanatical destruction of a bold and unbowed country. May that serve as a lesson to anyone daring to threaten the vital interests of the West.

Now to the reaction of North Africa. For some time already the North Africans who can receive European television, notably French television, have detected a decline in European values. And the Gulf crisis, with its overpowering impact only served to confirm that decline. Many North Africans realised that the media manipulations and one-sided arguments to which they themselves are accustomed are not exclusive to their less advanced society. It became clear to them that even in democratic societies there are methods of communication that produce a similar result. To cite a specific example, television viewers in Tunisia can compare ways of handling news in

thing similar happened to high-profile figures in France like Gisele Halimi.

As for lies, there were a great many of them, and I will cite only the most flagrant. It concerns a so-called Captain Karim identified in the studio of the TFI channel as the bodyguard who had searched a reporter for weapons before the latter went in to interview Saddam Hussein. But the captain in question turned out to be an underling who had never been anywhere near the Iraqi president; now living in France, he was seeking to sort out a problem concerning his residence status. He invented his story to exploit the "right-minded" public's wish to hear the

But, as the prisoners themselves later said, their injuries were due to debris over targets or occurred when they ejected from aircraft. Without a moment's hesitation, however, the president of the French Red Cross denounced Iraq for breaching the Geneva convention; the same official remained silent when pictures were shown of Iraqi prisoners in humiliating circumstances.

There is also the fabrication concerning the strength of the Iraqi army. I never believed for a moment the claim that it was the world's fourth most powerful military force. I know the countries of the region and the workings of their societies and I find it dishonest to judge their armies in quantitative terms.

But the enemy had to be overestimated in order to justify the overkill. The results of Western military action speak for themselves. Estimates on the loss of life reveal a terrifying disproportion: 200,000 to 300,000 dead on the Iraqi side to 200 odd on the coalition's side. It seems that such figures stir little emotion here, so strongly was the enemy identified with evil and monstrosity. One scene in particular illustrates how ethical values tend to wither away once an enemy is demonised: the image of hundreds of civilians and retreating soldiers burned alive in their vehicles on the road leading out of Kuwait city. Those pictures were shown in garish detail, without a moment's soul searching nor an ounce of compassion for the victims.

But such manipulation was not the work of the media alone. The media served as a vehicle for the viewpoint of the French political class and the intelligentsia, apart from a few exceptions. The analysis, commentary and attitudes that were struck were marked by a deep hostility that goes far back in time. I am astonished to see that the Arab continues to be perceived as the enemy even when he is largely powerless. Europe forged its identity in the clash against Islam. Once that identity was ensured Europe turned its back on the father that gave it life. Today, the Arab's least error, audacity and claim

appear to stir the old antagonism that I had been pleased to imagine extinct. Now that all pretences have been dropped how are we to continue working and living together? Relations between North Africa and southern Europe remain vital and geared to the future. It must be remembered that the irreconcilable forms part and parcel of one relationship with others. Without pulling our punches or failing to denounce the other's shortcomings nobody, as the saying goes, is perfect; it is possible to build a relationship on what each civilisation has contributed positively to the other. Muslim theologians believe that Islam's superiority lay in gaining sway over political power and that in subjecting politics to its rule it was completing the religious edifice undertaken by Judaism and Christianity. The latter, convinced of the virtue of its spiritual system, was persuaded it was better equipped to take a spiritual lead. But history is full of paradoxes and tricks. The actions of Islam and Christianity often ran counter to pacts and promises. A philosophy emanating from Christianity gave rise to a successful political model that largely turned its back on Christianity. The concept of individual sovereignty is an invention that thrived in a Christian setting, whereas the denser spiritual corpus matured in the Sufi philosophy which cultivated, from within the bosom of Islam, an obsession for Christ's image.

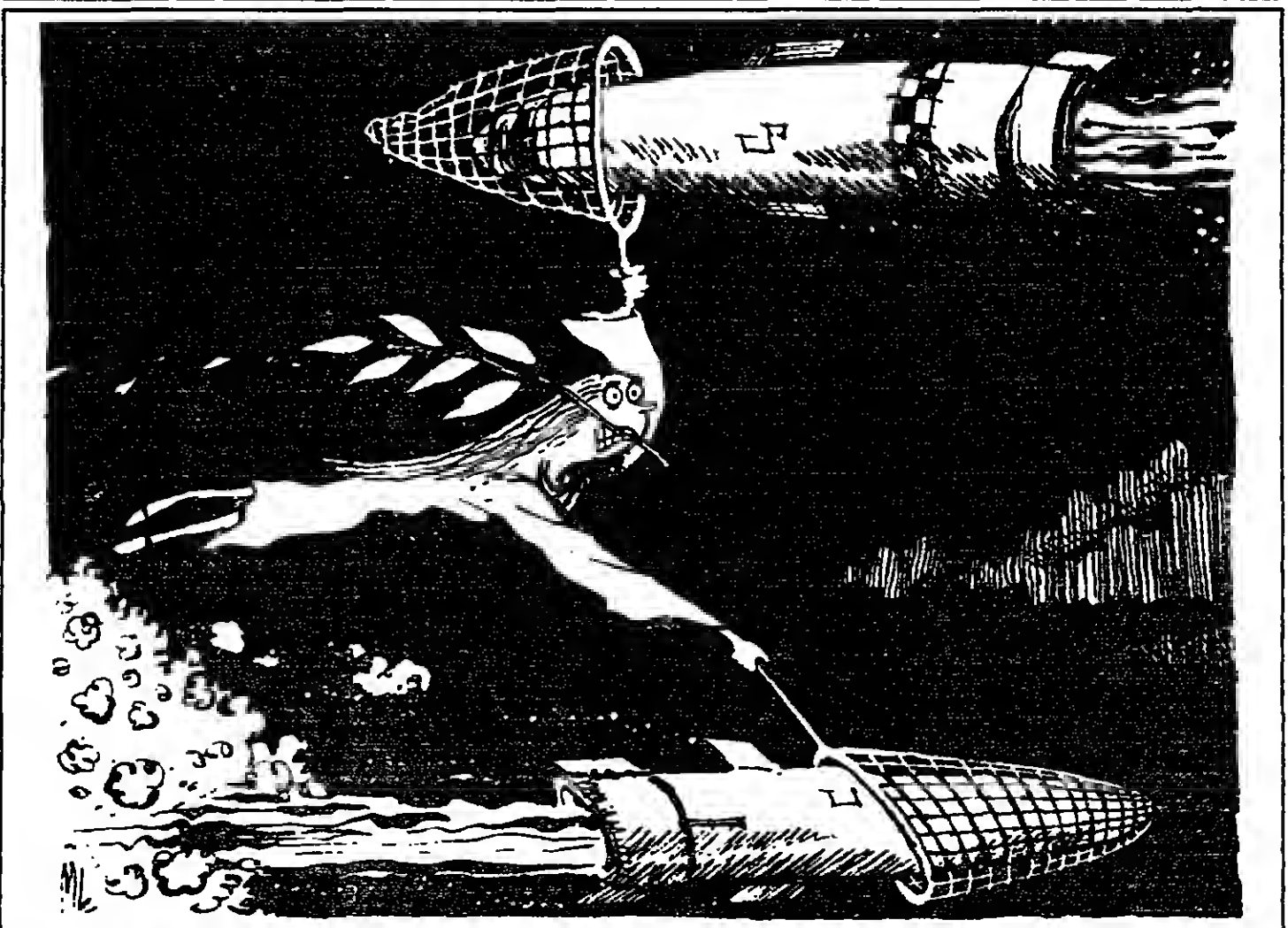
When one has both cultures there is every need to safeguard what is positive between them against neglect, indifference and foot-dragging on one side or the other. Europe needs a spiritual dimension, Islam must reconsider its political foundations and start out on the long path to the separation of spiritual and secular power. In response to the dismal present, we must work to recover the virtues of the past. Henceforth, Europe's values form part of the past. Armenia and loss give rise to barbarism that cao threaten us all. "The reconquest of the past" as proscribed by Goethe: that is a rallying cry that can bring us together.

"When one has both cultures there is every need to safeguard what is positive between them against neglect, indifference and foot-dragging on one side or the other. Europe needs a spiritual dimension, Islam must reconsider its political foundations and start out on the long path to the separation of spiritual and secular power. In response to the dismal present, we must work to recover the virtues of the past."

Europe because they receive French, Italian and Spanish programmes. They noted that during the Gulf crisis the Italian media focussed strongly on the Pope's almost daily condemnation of armed intervention and appeals for peace. The French media, for its part, threw a blackout on his campaign. When the Pope served the interests of those who manipulate news by struggling against communism to bring freedom to Poland French television could not get enough of him. But when the same Pope, driven by the same doctrine and the same sentiments, voiced a message running counter to the "correct view" he was simply pushed aside. Some-

worst about Saddam Hussein. The tales he told on television may have indeed been true but he was neither a witness to them nor a protagonist, as he claimed. He was simply passing on rumours that had done the rounds in Baghdad. The newspaper Liberation eventually exposed the hoax. But the truth is bound to have had less of an impact on public opinion than the effective lie.

Suspicion can also be cast on the way pictures of prisoners of war were treated. When the prisoners appeared on television showing signs of injury it was automatically assumed they had been beaten by their captors.



How to curb arms sales to the Mideast

By Andrew J. Pierre

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration's ambivalence towards its own policy of restraint in arms sales to the Middle East may torpedo this urgently needed effort.

Washington can best recover credibility by proposing an immediate one-year moratorium on all such sales by the five principal arms-supplying countries.

This should be the first step taken when these countries, the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, meet in Paris this month to establish guidelines for curbing Middle East arms sales.

These countries have accounted for 85 per cent of all Middle East arms sales in the past decade, and a still larger share of such big ticket items as advanced jet fighters, heavy tanks and missiles.

No sooner did President George Bush proclaim his laudable aim of creating a "general code of responsible arms transfers" than Defence Secretary Dick Cheney announced a new wave of sales to the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Israel. More such waves are expected.

Such sales are justified as serving allies' needs for self-defence, but coming right after the Gulf war, they seem inconsistent with the announced policy of restraint. It is hypocrisy, critics say.

There is no immediate need for new arms. Egyptian and Saudi weapons were not significantly consumed in the war; none of Israel's were.

The defence of the smaller Gulf states depends not on a quick infusion of weapons but on a comprehensive security policy the United States should develop for the area.

There should be fewer worries about security there today than in years, for the United States has demonstrated its ability and willingness to support its friends through direct intervention. The real danger is that new sales will undermine the first attempt in 36 years to create international constraints on the flow of arms to this volatile region.

Concerned that an arms race was developing in the Palestine area after the 1947 war, Britain, France and the United States signed a declaration in 1950. Under its terms, a Near East Arms Coordinating Committee successfully controlled the flow

of arms until 1955, when the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia transferred arms to Egypt after Nasser's takeover.

The lesson was that all the major arms suppliers had to be on board.

Today, for the first time, all the major suppliers have agreed to discuss regulating the arms flow. For the administration's policy to be meaningful there should be prior notification of certain sales and specific qualitative and quantitative restrictions agreed upon, in what should be a continuing process.

In addition, the five main suppliers should take a number of steps. Second-tier suppliers should become part of the process. They include Brazil, Argentina, Germany, Italy, South Africa and North Korea.

Even if some will not cooperate now, the others should be brought in.

Discussions should begin with the arms-receiving nations, for a suppliers' "cartel" cannot be imposed, practically or politically. Israel and Egypt have already indicated their interest in exploring possible limitations on conventional weapons in the region.

Arms-control discussions need to be linked to peace diplomacy.

An arms-control framework should include confidence-building measures such as notification of military manoeuvres, military observers, hot lines between capitals and provisions for greater visibility of sales.

And the economic consequences of reduced arms production must be addressed.

The United States should propose a market-sharing arrangement with the Europeans under which a country's specialisation in a given technology or sales lead in a particular country is encouraged. This way, the pain of reduction could be equitably shared and a country's defense industry need not be threatened.

The Soviet Union should be helped in converting its arms industry to consumer goods, which it must do in any case. But to improve chances for such difficult steps, a five-country moratorium should be put in place first.

The writer, senior associate of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, is author of "The Global Politics of Arms Sales." The article is reprinted from The New York Times.

From the left and the Muslim right, growing pressure on Riyadh

By Judith Caesar

CARBONDALE, Illinois — The Saudi government is under pressure to reform, with liberals and the religious right becoming increasingly open and specific in their demands.

Liberals and dissenting Muslim clerics have not only presented King Fahd with petitions but have published them in Egyptian newspapers, an unusual step. These documents are enlightening not only in what they say but in what they imply.

The liberals' petition, signed by 43 intellectuals, among them Mohammad Abdul Yamani, a former information minister, calls for a consultative assembly that could be either a group of advisers or a parliament.

Perhaps more significantly, it demands that all citizens be equal before the law, "regardless of race, tribe, social status or gender."

The petition says: "While the noblest vocation of the Muslim woman is the raising of her children, she should not be excluded from having a public voice and enjoying the basic legal and social rights accorded to all citizens, as long as this is within an Islamic context."

While this may sound mild to Western feminists, it is as bold a demand for women's rights as its authors could formulate without being accused of apostasy. Obviously, they had in mind the 70 women who in November drove across Riyadh in a convoy to protest the ban on women's driving; pamphleteers accused them of having renounced their religion.

Less obvious about the demand for equal rights is that it objects to a system of justice under which all members of the royal family and their associates are immune from prosecution.

The petition is carefully balanced between demanding basic human rights and carefully avoiding any appearance of questioning Islam.

Saudi Arabia has no written constitution and body of laws. It relies on the Koran as interpreted by judges appointed by the king. Thus, it is difficult for citizens to know what is legal and what is not and to have any idea how a

crime will be punished.

The petition does not object to the country's being governed by Islamic law but asks that those laws be clearly codified. It states that while the Koran is God's word, those who interpret it are fallible; thus, the law should be interpreted by a group of religious scholars, independent of the government, and not by government-appointed judges.

The other petition, wholly rooted to Islam, was signed by hundreds of clerics and intellectuals.

One signer was Safar Al Hawali, who is one of Islam's most respected theologians and who circulated tapes criticising the Gulf war.

What is most interesting about the document is a call for human rights.

The clerics demand freedom of the press and of expression. They declare that "the state should work to abolish all institutions that limit the people's freedom."

This is highly significant. Saudi Arabia justified its refusal to sign the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights on the ground that it had its own Islamic system of human-rights protection. The clerics' demands undermine this position.

The petitioners, also demanding a consultative assembly, add that its members should specialise in different areas of knowledge and be men of irreproachable integrity.

The petitioners, stating that the judicial system should be outside government influence, also call for an independent body of judges to examine and to try government officials accused of corruption.

Obviously they, like the liberals, are outraged by a system under which a person can be falsely accused of a crime because of his political views.

The royal family has been weakened by the Gulf war. Its alliance with the West against Iraq, another Muslim country, has eroded the regime's traditional sources of legitimacy.

Both petitions may well represent a final effort by critics to negotiate with the regime before government force is met with violent resistance.

The writer taught English at the women's campus of King Saud University in Riyadh for five years. The comments reprinted from The New York Times.

Masri team unfazed

(Continued from page 1)

tion (which are counted as votes in its favour), when the vote of confidence takes place, most probably at the end of this week or early next week, depending on the length of the speeches deputies will deliver during the confidence session.

However, the final outcome still very much depends on which way some 10-15 independent deputies decide to vote. Consultations were continuing among those deputies, who while mostly establishmentarians, expressed their unwillingness to support the government unconditionally. Some of those parliamentarians are said to have no objection to the new cabinet's policies and objectives, except that they were not members of it.

While it has been confirmed that a group of deputies, allegedly led by two Muslim Brotherhood deputies, had been making contact with other deputies in an effort to sway their votes against Mr. Masri's government, cabinet sources insist that most, if not all, independent deputies will finally back the prime minister and his team.

The anti-government effort, which has been aimed at persuading 41 deputies to sign a letter of opposition to the government before the confidence session began, was instantly backed by several Brotherhood deputies, but not by all, as well as by several independent deputies.

"Their idea was that the prime minister, when confronted by these signatures, would be persuaded to resign his post prior to the Tuesday's confidence session," said one deputy, who himself was contacted by the lobby group.

But after the campaign failed to come up with the required number of votes, the group started to call certain ministers to persuade them to resign their posts. Ministers contacted by the group generally expressed their disappointment over the methods employed by fellow parliamentarians, especially those who have no ideological differences with the government but are working for its failure on purely personal grounds, as one minister put it.

"This is a government that has an ideological base and a mission that it wants to achieve. If those independent deputies feel that their personal quarrels with the government are more important than the fate of this country then they will have to live with the consequences," the senior cabinet source said. He did not want to be quoted by name.

Later on Sunday evening, a group of 12 mostly independent deputies announced the formation of their own "Constitution Bloc." Members of the bloc, who hitherto included supporters and opponents of the government, named Irbid Deputy Thounqand as chairman and Kerak Deputy Youssef Mbeideen as rapporteur and official spokesman. Mr. Hindawi is a former chief of the Royal Court and deputy prime

minister who played a major role in the election of Abdul Latif Arabiyar (Muslim Brotherhood deputy from Salt) as speaker of the Lower House. By aligning himself and his several colleagues in the now defunct pan-Arab Nationalist Bloc in Parliament with the Muslim Brotherhood and their sympathisers in the House last October, he managed to defeat the incumbent speaker, Suleiman Arar, who had won the contest for the first speakership of the House over him in 1989. The formation of the new bloc, according to observers, may well be intended at playing the same role, as a power broker, in the confidence vote over Mr. Masri's government.

Mr. Mbeideen served as justice minister in Prime Minister Mudar Badran's government until he was replaced by Brotherhood Deputy Majed Khalifeh in the cabinet reshuffle of January 1991. He had belonged to the independent Islamist bloc which has had two different ministers in the Badran government and in the present one.

Other members of the Constitution Bloc are deputies Abdul Majid Shreideh, Marwan Hmoud, Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh, Fawzi Shaker Tuaimah, Ibrahim Ghababsheh, Hussein Mjalli, Eissa Reimomi, Jamal Sarairah, Sultan Udwan and Atta Shabwan. Most are independent deputies who had belonged to various blocs in the House.

Mr. Masri's own "National bloc," which is now headed by former Speaker Arar, along with the independent Islamist bloc (minus new defectors) and the Liberal bloc (minus renegades) are expected to vote solidly for the Masri government. The Liberals have been divided over the choice of Deputy Jamal Khraisheh as their representative in the cabinet, whereas most of the independent Islamists are likely to support the prime minister.

Until late in the evening, the new Constitution Bloc was in session to decide on its policy vis-a-vis the confidence vote, and observers said it was highly unlikely that the new group would come out in opposition to the cabinet since it included deputies who would strongly vie for the government and who would not have joined the group if its objective was withholding support.

Jordan's imports rise

(Continued from page 1)

same period, from JD 633 million to JD 706 million.

The United States was the primary source of Jordan's imports, providing a record JD 299.48 million worth of foreign goods in 1990.

France, the second largest Western exporter to Jordan, sold the Kingdom products worth JD 97.8 million in 1990, the report said.

It said Jordan was a good customer of Germany, Britain and Japan, importing goods from all three countries worth JD 240 million in 1990.

Arafat holds talks in Amman

(Continued from page 1)

focused on "the conditions of the Palestinian people under occupation in view of the escalation of the uprising despite Israel's criminal and inhuman actions against them."

Mr. Arafat ridiculed American efforts to bring about Arab-Israeli peace. "These are not peace efforts," he said. "They are just fobbing (Arabs) off," he told reporters.

The PLO chairman said the American administration was trying to buy time so that Israel could "swallow the Arab territories and their holy sites and Judaize them."

Referring to Israel's claims that it had eliminated many leaders of the uprising, Mr. Arafat said such claims and actions would not weaken the Palestinian struggle "but will only push the Palestinian people to offer further sacrifices until they achieve their aspirations to establish their independent state with Jerusalem as its capital."

Mr. Arafat declined to discuss his visit to Iraq, where he met with President Saddam Hussein. The Iraqi News Agency reported that the two leaders discussed "developments concerning the Palestinian people and the Arab World." It did not elaborate.

A Jordanian official quoted by the Associated Press said that he expected the PLO leader's talks here to be "comprehensive" and to cover "all the recent political and other developments in the region."

Mr. Arafat arrived in Jordan around 11 a.m. Sunday after a 12-hour overland trip, the only way to reach Jordan from Baghdad because Iraq's airports remain closed by a U.N.-imposed air embargo.

In Cairo, a PLO official said Egypt, Syria, Jordan and the PLO should meet to prepare a

united position prior to any Middle East peace talks.

Mahmoud Abbas, a member of the PLO executive committee, told reporters that he discussed efforts to convene an international peace conference with Foreign Minister Amr Musa.

Relations between Egypt and the PLO have been strained since the PLO supported Iraq in the Gulf war.

"We reviewed the peace process, steps that have been made and agreed upon steps which are still pending, particularly the role of the United Nations and the continuity of an international peace conference," Mr. Abbas said.

"It is important that a meeting between Egypt, Syria, Jordan and the PLO convene to prepare for the peace process," Mr. Abbas said.

His meeting with Mr. Musa was also attended by Osama Al Baz, a senior aide to President Hosni Mubarak.

In Paris, U.S. President George Bush repeated a warning Sunday that he might go public with details of a U.S. peace plan for the Middle East if Israel and others continued to drag its feet on negotiations.

He said there might come a point at which he would tell the American people "who needs to come forward and do what."

At a news conference in Kennebunkport two weeks ago Mr. Bush expressed frustration at the lack of progress in Middle East peace negotiations and threatened to personally prod the parties to break the stalemate.

After talks with French President Francois Mitterrand, Mr. Bush said the United States was determined to continue its efforts to promote a peace agreement.

He said the American initiative "still has a chance" but conceded that it has taken this long.

Iraq gives U.N. fresh list

(Continued from page 1)

Rambouillet Castle near Paris. The French leader noted that the safety of the Kurds in northern Iraq was also of concern to allied forces.

Mr. Mitterrand, in an interview with French television networks, said, "If it concerns protecting populations martyred, persecuted, massacred by the government of Saddam Hussein, if it concerns seeing Iraq arm itself with a nuclear weapon, an intervention would be just."

"We are ready if it's necessary,"

Rambouillet was the first stop of a long European voyage for Mr. Bush, who was flying immediately afterwards to London. Before beginning his talks with Mr. Mitterrand, Mr. Bush decorated General Michel Roquejeoffre, the commander of French forces in the Gulf war, with the U.S. Legion of Merit.

Mr. Bush and Mr. Mitterrand, meeting on the eve of the London economic summit of the world's major industrial democracies, said Iraq's activities since the end of the Gulf war were at the top of their agenda.

Baghdad has appealed to the Security Council to block threatened U.S. air strikes.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Ahmad Hussein Khudayer said in a letter to the Security Council: "The United States is now preparing for a new, all-out aggression against Iraq."

Mr. Khudayer, who also called for an emergency meeting of Arab League foreign ministers to discuss the threat, said Iraq was cooperating with U.N. teams supervising destruction of its weapons of mass destruction under Gulf war ceasefire terms.

"U.N. officials have started to talk publicly about their intention to launch aggression against Iraq," he told the Security Council in a letter sent Saturday and published in all of Iraq's state-run newspapers Sunday.

"The United States is now preparing for a new, all-out aggression against Iraq," he said.

"Iraq wants the Security Council to stop America's aggressive conduct against an independent, free country which is a member of the United Nations and the international community," Mr. Khudayer's letter said.

Mr. Khudayer said Iraq was honouring its obligations to the Security Council and respecting U.N. Gulf crisis resolutions in an active and serious manner despite the fact that it considered them unjust.

"Why should the United States then resort to military attack if its real aim is to implement Security Council resolutions?" he asked.

Nabil Najm, Iraq's representative to the 21-member Arab League, told reporters in Cairo that the American threats were a danger to the Arab World's national security and called for urgent action.

Israelis hold 55

(Continued from page 1)

team ran contrary to government plans for a controversial request to its guardian ally the United States later this year to guarantee \$10 billion in loans for immigration.

"The government should be cautious in its approach to additional external and internal debt in case the higher growth does not materialise in full," the team said in preliminary report.

"It is easier to borrow more in the future if growth turns out to be higher than planned that to be forced to repay or have to adjust to less borrowing if it turns out lower."

Although immigration has slowed this year from levels seen late in 1990, Israel is still projecting that a million Soviet Jews will arrive by the middle of the decade.

"There is a tendency to think of borrowing plans in relation to the growth rate of the economy assuming that one million immigrants are successfully absorbed," the IMF team said.

Syria accepts U.S. proposals

(Continued from page 1)

Arab-Israeli peace. His efforts foundered on differences between Israel and Syria on the form of a proposed regional conference.

The two sides were in dispute over what role, if any, the U.N. should play and whether the conference should be a one-time event or a forum that could be periodically reconvened.

Mr. Bush wrote to Syria and Israel in early June offering compromise proposals. Israel turned them down.

Mr. Assad's move is likely to embarrass Israel, already at odds with its guardian superpower over its encouragement of Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Mr. Bush said Tuesday he would "love" to see an end to the settlements, which the United States calls an obstacle to peace.

The State Department declined to respond immediately to Syria's reported acceptance of Mr. Bush's compromise proposals.

A U.S. official told Reuters a letter from President Assad was expected Sunday but he could not confirm that it had arrived.

Fresh shooting in Yugoslavia

(Continued from page 1)

In a tough ultimatum aimed primarily at the breakaway northern republics, the presidency ordered all paramilitary groups apart from the army and regular peacetime militia and police to demobilise and hand in their weapons by Friday.

"If they fail to obey this, their last warning, the state will have to act with all the means at its disposal, including force," President Stipe Mesic told a news conference.

But in his role as Croatia's member on the eight-man presidency, grouping Yugoslavia's republics and provinces, Mr. Mesic said Croatia's National Guard was not affected by the order.

There have been almost daily exchanges of fire between Croats and Serbs, who make up about 11 per cent of Croatia's five million people.



Michel Serres: I will not end my life without talking politics

Michel Serres advocates anthropology of knowledge

By Severine Jouve

UNIVERSALIST thought, the luminous exploration of all spheres of knowledge, has inexhaustible resources. So has Michel Serres. Some call him a converted scientist, or a non-academic philosopher. Others call him a neo-humanist preaching the multicultural dawn, the triumph of the melting-pot and the benefits of integration. The many faces of an exceptional man whose free spirit — an indefatigable traveller — uncovers the contemporary world to us in all its forms. With his book *Le Tiers Instinct* (Ed. Francois Bourin, 1991), "the Fox" revisits philosophy by way of political thought. A year earlier, in *Le Contrat-Naturel* (Ed. Francois Bourin, 1990), he had already renewed our vision of the world, underscoring the importance of a new relationship between humanity and the environment.

"I will not end my life without talking politics," declared this uncontested master of communication in April 1990, whose pluridisciplinary works are today set up as an anthropology of knowledge. From the deepest roots of knowledge to the scientific re-interpretation of traditions, from the mathematical equation to the legal concept via biology and morals, the wanderings of the philosopher are wide and many, like life itself. Following the unaccustomed route of the land-surveyor, we once again measure the excellence of this man's path: scientific studies.

naval school, training as a university lecturer, the teaching of history, editor and publisher of learned works... Leibnitz, Hermes, Jules Verne, Auguste Comte, Lucretius, Rome.

An acute curiosity, a grasp of interactions, and absolute synthesis are the watchwords of this athenologist of modernity who wishes to save the language from systematic elaboration or the tedious repetition of the media. Denouncing the dangers of scientific specialisation, and also the growing power of technology which threatens the integrity of our country, he invites us to rediscover our ancestral humility in the face of the divided universe and the fragmentation of its language. Bearing witness to the negligence of Man when faced with his natural environment, his works propose a sort of "Declaration of the Rights of the World" to the new society, a concept too long forgotten by scholars, jurists and philosophers. The old quarrel between ancients and moderns, each fighting to have the last word of knowledge is today as absurd as it is outdated. But to make the new out of the old, always to have the past present in the mind, that is to be a child of one's time. It is yet to be discovered whether science, law and politics — the holy trinity of modernity — can give meaning to democracy...

Nevertheless, as we already live "out of place," we must learn to wander, and reconsider the composite nature of this end of our century. Simply to

look at the sky, to creep into all the nooks and crannies of thought, or to offer the depth of our vision to others, are all advances towards universal salvation.

The cultural shock between the old humanities of Europe and the scientific youth of the United States has changed the profile of the universe. Dazzled, we follow the luminous reasoning of this relative of Montaigne and Leibnitz, friend of Michel Foucault and of René Girard, who proclaims to us that nature is not the heritage of men, and that the body and the brain, finally reconciled, whether by sport, Latin or mathematics, can finally integrate themselves into the new world; that of the Tiers-Institut, the fusion of different cultures.

The future lies in knowledge and not in the economy. By making this thought our credo, maybe we will manage to find the right circulation between the West and the Islamic nations: Even if we have lost Paradise, let us not destroy our origins, but let us broadcast our encyclopaedic knowledge against rigid, centralising culture. The evolution and enhancement of national ideology lies in the respect of foreign contributions. It is enough to follow in the wake of one of the greatest thinkers of our time, who, in this latest book, once more celebrates the happy union of literature, love and philosophy.

Reprinted from Label France, the magazine of the French Ministry for External Affairs.

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Al Wahdat leads Premier League table

By Ahmad Ismail
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Al Faisali had only 24 hours to enjoy their leading position in the Premier League as they were once more dethroned by their arch rivals, Al Wahdat. Al Wahdat beat Al Faisali 2-0 to take the lead, benefiting from their superior goal difference at the expense of Al Faisali and Al Ramtha, who have got the same goal tally. Jihad Abdul Munem grabbed 1-0 lead for Al Wahdat in the 51st minute, breaking a 45-minute scoreless tie. Firas Fawzi pounced on a rebound of Jihad's shot in the 75th minute to score the second goal for Al Wahdat. The two teams had clawed

their way through the final 15 minutes without breaking each others' defensive walls.

Al Faisali played surprisingly well and scored a 3-1 win over Al Arabi Friday. A header from Khalid Awad put Al Faisali in the lead in the 27th minute.

Luck ran out for Al Faisali's goalkeeper, Milad Abbasi, who missed a penalty when his teammate, Jamal Abu Abed, was brought down in the penalty area.

Khalid Awad, who had tested Al Arabi's goalkeeper with hard shots, scored again in the 62nd minute but Mutaseem Sharara narrowed the margin by scoring the only goal for Al Arabi, who mounted repeated attacks as they pressed for the Equaliser. Nevertheless, Tariq Awad, who was picked in the last 10 minutes,

extended Al Faisali's lead by scoring the third goal.

Al Ramtha, which was ranked third, downed Al Qadisiya 5-1 when they met in Irbid Wednesday.

Muwafaq Abu Haidleb, Hussein Al Shbanatna and Salim Dhiyabat stormed Al Qadisiya's goal with their fast attacks, taking advantage from Al Qadisiya's defensive errors. Between them they were able to score five goals. Ten minutes into the second half, Al Ramtha was fortunate not to concede a penalty themselves when defender Bassam Al Banna pulled down Al Qadisiya attacker Faiz Isam on the edge of the box.

Al Hussein has advanced to the fourth place with five points after beating Al Jazireh 1-0. Arif Hussein tested Al Jazireh's keeper for the first time in the 15th minute when he forced him to tip a low shot around his left post. But ten minutes before the interval, Arif himself scored the winning goal when he fired the ball into the net, sending the Al Jazireh keeper the other way to put Al Hussein ahead 1-0.

Al Jeel got another shock when they lost 4-1 to Al Ahli, who were able to score three goals in 10 minutes and secured the fifth place on the table with three points.

They are followed by Al Qadisiya, Al Jazireh and Al Arabi with one point each. Al Karmel and Al Jeel stayed at the bottom of the table with their pointless tally.

Ribeiro brings the samba beat to Tour de France

RENNES, France (R) — Mauro Ribeiro brought the samba beat to the Tour de France Sunday as he became the first Brazilian to win a stage of the world's greatest cycle race.

Ribeiro, the only Brazilian among the 198 riders in the race, launched a daring sprint several hundred metres from the finish of the ninth stage over 161 kilometres from Alençon to win a victory which will be widely celebrated in his native Curitiba.

Ribeiro, 26, was in a breakaway group of 10 riders who gained almost a minute on the main peloton which included tour leader and defending champion Greg Lemond of the United States.

There was no change in the

overall leadership in a relatively uneventful stage following the all-important and testing 73-kilometre individual time trial Saturday in which Lemond took the yellow jersey.

Johan Bruyneel of Belgium tried a long-distance attack to the finish line from more than one kilometre out but, just as the breakaway group reined him in again, Ribeiro struck.

The Brazilian spurred through as the bunch relaxed for a moment.

He gained a quick 20-metre lead and was just able to hold on as Frenchman Laurent Jalabert and Dimitri Konyshev of the Soviet Union closed in to place second and third with the same time.

Colombia crushes Brazil 2-0

VINA DEL MAR, Chile (AP) — Colombia virtually assured itself of advancing to the final round of the America Cup Saturday, shocking an already beleaguered Brazil 2-0 on a pair of goals set up by midfielder Carlos Valderrama.

The victory gave Colombia five points from three games in Group B, putting it two points ahead of Ecuador, Uruguay and Brazil with one game remaining.

Ecuador dramatically improved its chances of advancing, using a pair of goals by Raul Aviles to beat Bolivia 4-0 in the second game Saturday.

Only the top two teams in each group advance to the round-robin final in the diennial 10-nation South American Championship.

Uruguay meets Colombia and Brazil plays Ecuador Monday in Group B's final games. Group A competes its schedule Sunday with Argentina playing Peru and Chile facing Paraguay.

Valderrama, who plays for Valladolid of the Spanish first division, led a fast offensive attack, which clearly surprised a disorganised Brazilian team already heavily criticised at home for its 1-1 draw with Uruguay Thursday.

"There's one clear reason for our loss: We played badly,"

Brazilian coach Paulo Falcão said.

Valderrama fed Anthony de Avila in the 35th minute for Colombia's first goal and then found Arnoldo Iguaran at the top of the penalty area in the 66th minute.

Colombian coach Luis Garcia said his team's victory was based "on an efficient midfield play, led by Carlos Valderrama."

He said his players were able to neutralise Brazil's usually brilliant playmaker Neto, who plays for Corinthians of Sao Paulo.

Against Bolivia, which was eliminated after earning only two points in four games, 24-year-old midfielder Alex Aguinaga of Necaxa of Mexico gave Ecuador the lead in the 32nd minute.

Aviles added his first goal 10 minutes later.

Twenty minutes into second half, Aviles scored again, this time on a weaker after a pass by Aguinaga.

Ecuador was also led by 19-year-old goalkeeper Erwin Ramirez, who stopped Ramiro Castillo on a penalty kick in the 69th minute and then scored a goal of his own on a penalty kick, awarded to Ecuador after Aviles was pulled down in the penalty area by Marco Perruino.

Local Sports Briefs

AVF gets full support

AMMAN (J.T.) — The general assembly of the Arab Volleyball Federation (AVF) concluded 2 days of meetings in Amman Friday. Dr. Majed Al Kahla, the AVF president, told the Jordan Times that the meetings were attended by Taiseer Arifa and Ali Al Kubri from Jordan, Hussein Sadiq from Iraq, Fared Al Saied from Palestine, Abbas Al Mansour from Yemen and Shawaqi Al Abdullat, a member of AVF's technical Committee, and Abdul Munem Abu Tuq, a member of the Referees Committee. Dr. Kahla said he valued the warm hospitality extended to them by the Jordanian Federation and praised the participation of certain Arab states who have expressed their full support to the legitimacy of Baghdad-based AVF. He added that Arab federations confirmed the fixture and venues of the Arab clubs tournament, which will be held in Baghdad on Nov. 15. He also said AVF continued its efforts to enrol the Tunisian and Algerian Volleyball Federations in the AVF programmes.

Syrian team to play in Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Al Jebila of Syria confirmed their participation in the 6th Al Wahdat Arab Tournament due to be held in Jordan next August. Sources at the Jordanian Soccer Federation told the Jordan Times that the Syrian team is the first to confirm their participation in the championship in which more than five clubs from Tunisia, Sudan, Yemen and Morocco have been invited. He added that the organising committee will be formed early this week to coordinate the technical matters of the event.

Jordan to take part in boxing talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan has received an invitation from the Arab Boxing Federation (ABF) to take part in their meetings to be held in Baghdad next September. Salih Basyoni, the JBF president, will discuss with the ABF's officials — due to arrive here Wednesday — subjects concerning ABF activities and Jordanian participation in the Arab Youth Tournament, which will be held in Baghdad. He added that the president and secretary general of the Bag'dad-based ABF will discuss matters of mutual cooperation between Jordan and Arab countries.

Courier, Sabatini win Osaka tennis tournament

OSAKA, Japan (AP) — Jim Courier beat Michael Chang 6-4, 2-6, 6-4 Sunday in a battle between two French Open champions for the men's singles title of the Gunze World Tennis Tournament.

Gabriela Sabatini, the Wimbledon runner-up, downed Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria 7-6 (7-3), 6-2, winning the Gunze Women's Singles crown for the third consecutive year.

Courier, this year's French Open champion, took the first set with a service break at love in the third game against Chang, the 1989 winner.

But his serve faltered in the second set and Chang broke in the fourth and eighth games.

A break in the ninth game gave Courier victory in the deciding set of the more than two-hour match on the artificial court of the Osaka Municipal Gym.

In the women's final, Sabatini jumped to a 3-0 lead in the first set tie-break, but then double faulted twice. A volley by Sabatini and a lob winner by Maleeva took the score to 4-3, but Maleeva then netted two shots and Sabatini took the set with a lob.

En route to the men's finals, Courier beat American compatriot Tommy Ho 4-6, 7-5, 6-1 and Pete Sampras, 1990 U.S. Open champion, 6-4, 6-2.

Sabatini reached the finals by beating American Susan Sloane 6-3, 6-0 and Magdalena Maleeva, younger sister of Katerina, 6-4, 6-4.

Courier and Sabatini each received \$40,000.

Sanchez wins Swiss Open

GSTAAD, Switzerland (AP) — Fifth-seeded Emilio Sanchez of Spain capitalised on Sergi Bruguera's injury Sunday and defeated his Davis Cup teammate and no. 1 seed 6-1, 6-4, 6-4 in the finals of the \$305,000 Swiss Open.

Bruguera was bothered by a strained stomach muscle which hampered his service.

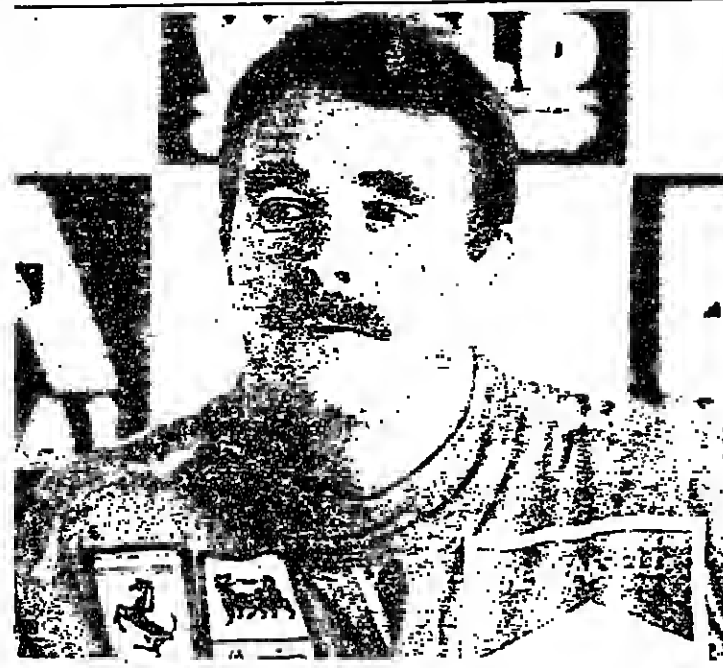
"Today I got the advantage early and began feeling comfortable," said the 26-year-old Sanchez, this year's Italian Open champion. "But it's not easy

playing against someone injured."

Sanchez, ranked 11th in the world, won \$39,600 and the fourth title of his career. He also won the Gstaad tournament in 1987.

He has now beaten Bruguera in all five of their matches in a tour event.

"I like the atmosphere here," he said. "The altitude helps my game and makes my strokes more powerful," he said of the 1,049-metre (3,461-foot) high Alpine resort.



Nigel Mansell

Mansell wins British GP

SILVERSTONE, England (AP) — Nigel Mansell sped away from the field to win the British Grand Prix by 42 seconds Sunday over Gerhard Berger, his second Formula One victory in eight days.

Mansell, who had won the French Grand Prix last week, led for all but the opening 45 seconds of the race. No other car could match the speed of his Williams-Renault, which repeatedly set lap records.

The Briton, who has won his nation's Grand Prix three times in the last six years, began from the pole position but was overtaken at the start by defending world champion Ayrton Senna.

Mansell needed only half a lap to regain the lead, and he never relinquished it after that — increasing his gap over Senna with nearly every lap.

The lead grew so large by mid-race that Mansell was able to

make a pit stop to change tires and rejoin the race in first place. Senna, driving a McLaren-Honda, was second for nearly the entire race but seemed to run out of fuel on the last lap and dropped to fourth place.

Berger, in the other McLaren, was second by nearly 18 seconds over Alain Prost in a Ferrari. Senna was a lap behind for fourth place, followed by Nelson Piquet in a Benetton-Ford and Bertrand Gachot in a Jordan.

Mansell took 1 hour, 27 minutes, 35.479 seconds to complete 59 laps of the 5.226-kilometre (3.247-mile) Silverstone circuit, which has a few new curves this year in an effort to slow cars and improve safety.

The victory moved him closer to Senna in this year's driver standings. Senna leads with 51 points, while Mansell is second with 33.

Soviet Olympic Committee is desperate for cash

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Olympic Committee, which for years sought independence from central government, has found its newly-won freedom to be a mixed blessing.

The government stopped funding the Olympic Committee this year, leaving them free but struggling to raise enough cash just to pay the hotel bills at the 1992 games in Barcelona.

"We have obtained the status of independence, but we also have become independent of money, too," Vladimir Koval, the committee's finance director, told a recent news conference.

The situation is exacerbated by a presidential decree ordering all enterprises to hand 40 per cent of their foreign currency to the state to help pay the government's huge debt.

"We appeal to you to convince the central government to free the Olympic movement from paying taxes," said Vitaly Smirnov, director of the Olympic Committee.

Officials expected about 350 Soviet athletes, trainers and other personnel to attend the Olympic Games next year.

They said some athletes in Soviet republics would not participate for political reasons.

Some wrestlers in Georgia would not participate because Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia, a nationalist seeking independence from the Kremlin, will not let athletes from the southern republic compete under the state committee.

Other Georgian athletes have left the republic and moved to Moscow in order to compete in the games.

Athletes from the breakaway Republic of Lithuania are also likely to be absent from Barcelona for similar reasons.

The Soviet Olympic Committee is hoping to raise funds from various projects. Gold and platinum coins will be minted and sold to collectors before the games begin and lotteries will be organised.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH
©1991 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AK103 ♠J7652 ♣6
Partner opens the bidding with one club. What do you respond?

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K983 ♠K6 752 ♣KJ53
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ 1 ♣ 1 ♠ 1 ♣
What do you bid now?

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A105 ♠K976 ♠AQ102 ♠A10
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 3 NT Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠73 ♠AQJ53 ♠KJ9 ♠763
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 NT Pass 3 NT Pass
What do you bid now?

The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 NT Pass 3 NT Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A105 ♠K976 ♠AQ102 ♠A10
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 3 NT Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠73 ♠AQJ53 ♠KJ9 ♠763
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 NT Pass 3 NT Pass
What do you bid now?

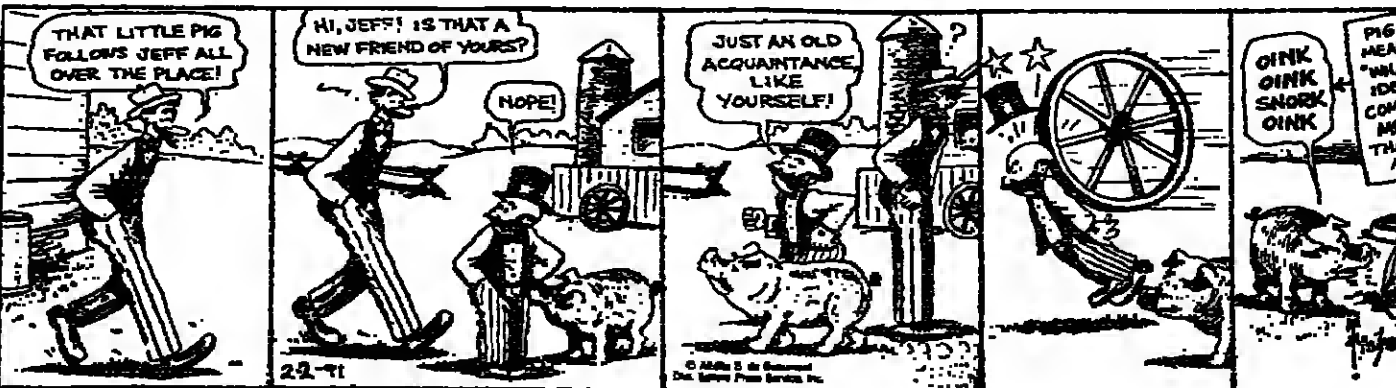
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY JULY 15, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: One of the best days of the month when you may feel lousy by all the activity but there won't be much of a chance that you will act impulsively as you continue on your sensible schedule.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Your interest in building up a greater amount of security at home is aided by doing the little things that can enhance your feeling of right action.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) There is much activity to put in motion the routine details required to make your decisions a success are fine for you to do right now so be positive.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You are able to find the ways and means now by which you can have a greater abundance for your every need so be open to new sources of income.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Be just as personal as you like in telling your intimate aims to others so that they can help you get what you want the most and show appreciation.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) This is your day to get into all sorts of intimate arrangements that those in whom you have confidence will aid you to project at this time.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You have some pretty emotional friends who can take up

much of your time to give it to them cheerfully for you get big benefits in return.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Whatever you would like to do that necessitates some further contact with a prominent person is very good so work out the details of your future association.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Make a point now to get out of that convenient rut and be aware of the many opportunities you have to further your plans by new outlets open.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) This is the time to be sure that you carry through with whatever responsibilities you have of a business or personal nature.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Now you find you are the one who does make headway by discussing with your partners where you are jointly headed, and going into all facets of new arrangements.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) This is the moment for you to get at all those tasks facing you and you make this day more productive by performing all services requested.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Make sure that you do get at those unfinished aptitudes you like so much and then put them in effect so you have the pleasures you wish.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris

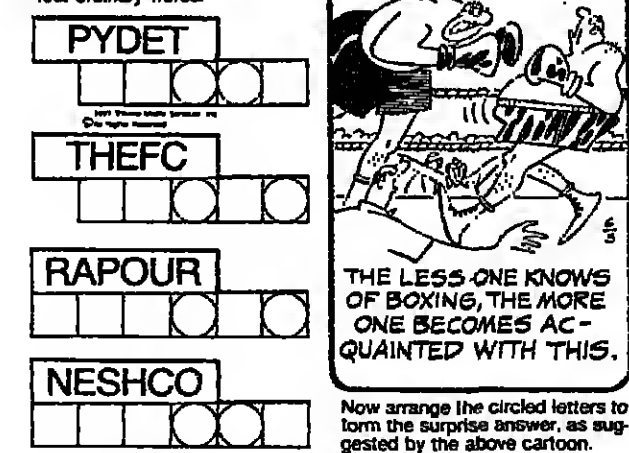


"Stanley believes in life after death, but he doesn't believe in life after six o'clock."

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME. by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles. One letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



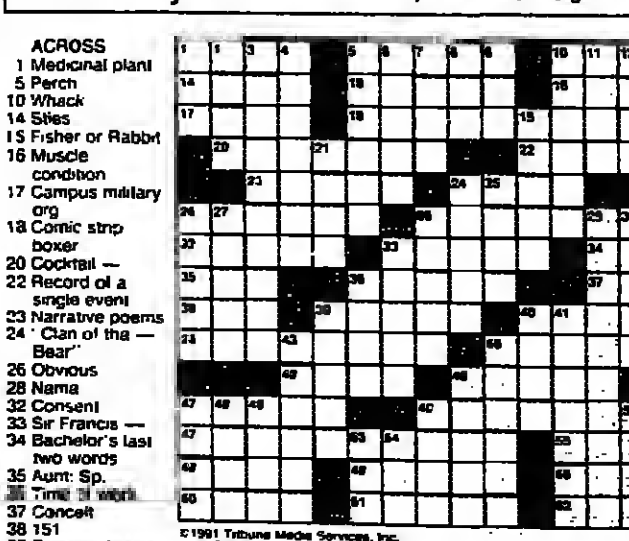
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: _____ (Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: FELON TARRY POLICY MARKUP

Answer: Managers to get somewhere by "wind" and "put" — A KITE

THE Daily Crossword by Norma Steinberg



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



Financial Markets
In co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

Weekly Foreign Exchange Market Summary (July 8 - July 12, 1991)

THE DOLLAR dropped against the mark and other European currencies early last week as the market focused its attention on the Bundesbank council meeting held later in the week. It rose sharply after the Bundesbank failed to raise its discount rate Thursday, only to drop sharply at the end of the week as a result of concerted intervention from 15 central banks.

Monday witnessed a decline in dollar rates against most European Monetary System (EMS) currencies, particularly against the mark. The latter was supported by a perceived easing of tensions in Yugoslavia and, more importantly, fear of a Bundesbank discount rate hike following its council meeting Thursday. A bout of profit-taking and dollar selling thus ensued. The dollar remained firm against the yen, however, due to a sharp drop in Tokyo share prices following an earlier financial scandal involving major securities houses.

The dollar regained some ground against EMS currencies Tuesday, after support at 1.8050 marks could not be breached. A recovery in the Nikkei share-index halted the decline in the yen. Repatriation of capital by Japanese investors, to purchase subordinated debt issues which Japanese banks had to sell to raise new capital following the drop in the value of their outstanding shares, also helped support the Japanese currency.

After rising earlier in Tokyo to reach 1.8208 marks, the U.S. currency declined during European and New York trading hours Wednesday. Analysts attributed the drop to speculation which caused the dollar to fall through support at 1.8170 marks, which in turn triggered a wave of stop-loss selling.

Thursday witnessed a sharp rise in the dollar, particularly against the mark, as the Bundesbank announced no changes in its discount rate, a move that further served to fuel the already bullish dollar sentiment in the market. The dollar thus ended at its highest levels for the week, closing in New York at 1.8349 marks, 138.66 yen and at \$1.6055 to the sterling pound.

The dollar continued to rise in Tokyo Friday. However, the market later witnessed several rounds of concerted intervention by 15 central banks, including the Federal Reserve, to cap the dollar's rise during New York trading hours. This brought the dollar sharply down to close at its lowest levels of the week at 1.7895 marks, 136.40 yen and at \$1.6493 to the sterling pound. Traders attributed the sharp decline to the persistent nature of the intervention, which occurred in several rounds, as well as the fact of the Federal Reserve's participation. Observers maintained that a deal seems to have been struck between the Bundesbank and the Federal Reserve, whereby the former would refrain from raising interest rates further, while the latter would participate in halting further dollar rallies through intervention. An unexpected drop of 0.2 per cent in June retail sales, and a 1.4 per cent fall in June producer prices in the U.S. also hurt the dollar.

As for next week, some observers maintained that the dollar's direction would be determined largely by news emanating from the Group of Seven (G-7) meetings in London, as well as by whether support at 1.7850 marks holds.

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	5/7/1991 Close	12/7/1991 Close	Percent Change
Sterling Pound	1.6155	1.6493	+ 2.09%
Deutsche Mark	1.8253	1.7895	+ 2.00%
Swiss Franc	1.5745	1.5493	+ 1.63%
French Franc	6.1855	6.0730	+ 1.85%
Japanese Yen	138.35	136.40	+ 1.41%

USD Per YTC

Euro-Currency Interest Rates*

Currency	5/7/1991 1-Month (%)	12/7/1991 1-Month (%)	5/7/1991 1-Year (%)	12/7/1991 1-Year (%)
U.S. Dollar	5.93	6.75	5.81	6.62
Sterling Pound	11.31	10.56	11.00	10.62
Deutsche Mark	8.81	9.31	8.75	9.31
Swiss Franc	7.87	7.81	7.62	7.62
French Franc	9.62	9.62	9.50	9.56
Japanese Yen	7.40	7.34	7.43	7.25

*Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding 100,000 U.S. dollars, 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.666	.688
Sterling Pound	1.1371	1.1368
Deutsche Mark	.3833	.3852
Swiss Franc	.4427	.4449
French Franc	.1128	.1134
Japanese Yen*	.5028	.5053
Dutch Guilder	.3400	.3417
Swedish Krona	.1052	.1057
Italian Lira*	.0514	.0517
Belgian Franc	.01862	.01871

* Per 100

Rafsanjani defends price rises, calls critics demagogues

TEHRAN (R) — President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, stung by growing criticism over soaring prices, has said the rises were an essential part of reforms which could save Iran's ailing economy.

Calling his critics demagogues and hypocrites, Mr. Rafsanjani said their proposals for a return to state-dominated economic policies of the Iran-Iraq war era would bring ruin.

"These people who write such things in the papers — are they not afraid of God? This is based neither on social justice, nor economic wisdom, nor sound statesmanship," he told worshippers in Tehran University.

Criticism of the government for raising prices of many goods and services was stepped up in the press last week after hundreds of people demonstrated in three central squares against rising bus fares last Saturday.

The critics are led by two newly established hardline newspapers and radicals in parliament who will be fighting to maintain their majority in next year's elections.

Among other rises, implemented this year to cut subsidies, diesel fuel for transport

has been raised 150 per cent, cement 138 per cent and overseas air tickets by up to 300 per cent.

Mr. Rafsanjani said according to the five-year plan to 1994 approved by parliament, ministries providing most of the public services should not rely on the government budget.

"We wanted to do it (raise prices) last year but saw it was dangerous and postponed it. We had to borrow 600 billion rials (\$430 million at the open market rate) from the central bank. This year, despite the price rises, we still have to borrow 400 billion rials," he said.

"It is demagoguery and hypocrisy to tell people the government is raising prices. You don't know how much the government owes the central bank — you would be shocked if you did," he added.

Mr. Rafsanjani said many of the critics just wanted to win votes for the elections and urged people not to follow them.

"We are going over from the centralised economy of the war time to a balanced economy of peacetime. The problems are many," he said, adding that reforms were already paying off.

When the government sold



Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani

copper at 250 rials (20 cents) a kilogramme, he said, much of it was smuggled out and sold as scrap at \$3 a kilogramme.

"Then we raised the price. Smuggling stopped. The copper mill is no longer losing money. But some people are making noises that the government has made pots and pans which go into the dummies of village girls more expensive," he said.

New regulations had led to the doubling of non-oil exports in the two months ending May 21, Mr. Rafsanjani said.

"Now the price of some export items such as nuts go up as a result. But this is the way to save the country. If I want to think of myself only, I should not do this. I should say 'let the future government do something about it.' But I don't think this way. I think the revolution should succeed — even if I fail," Mr. Rafsanjani said.

Gorbachev asks West for consumer goods to ease pain of reforms

LONDON (R) — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev has asked the West and Japan for an "infusion of consumer goods" to help his country make the painful transition from communism to capitalism, a senior U.S. official said Saturday.

The request is apparently aimed at winning popular support for tough Soviet economic reforms by providing the country's consumers with some of the benefits of capitalism early on.

Mr. Gorbachev made his plea for Western and Japanese consumer goods in a 23-page letter outlining his economic reforms plans that was delivered to leaders of the world's top industrial democracies before their economic summit starting Monday.

The Soviet Union has also asked for formal ties between the Soviet Union and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and raised the possibility of Western contributions to a fund to help stabilise the Soviet currency.

The letter also outlines reductions made by the Soviet Union in its military spending. U.S. officials said, Japan and the U.S. are already looking at ways the West

can help Moscow convert its arms factories to civilian uses.

The senior U.S. official, who declined to be identified, described the letter as deftly and diplomatically worded but said it did not stand up to hard-nosed scrutiny.

"What is meant by an 'infusion of consumer goods anyway?' he asked.

The question of aid for the Soviet Union is shaping up as the biggest issue that will face the leaders of the Group of Seven (G-7) — Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States — at their July 15-17 economic summit here.

The leaders have agreed to meet Mr. Gorbachev on Wednesday, but only after they have completed their formal summit sessions.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady told a small group of reporters Friday that Mr. Gorbachev wants the West to recognise the importance of the Soviet Union and the need to bring it rapidly into the international economic fold.

Saudi-Kuwaiti cement firm posts higher profit

MANAMA, Bahrain (R) — A joint Saudi-Kuwaiti cement firm said its 1990 net profit rose almost four-fold to 62.7 million rials (\$16.7 million) from 16.5 million rials (\$4.4 million) the previous year.

The Damman-based Saudi-Kuwaiti Cement Manufacturing Company, owned by shareholders in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, has a paid-in capital of 645 million rials (\$172 million).

A company statement said the board of directors had proposed a 25.8 million rial (\$6.9 million) dividend to shareholders for the first time since it was established in 1988.

The company returned to the black in 1989 after heavy losses in previous years. Total accumulated losses stood at 29.7 million rials (\$7.9 million) at the end of 1989.

It exported a total of 741,182 tonnes of cement in 1990, down from the previous year's total of 920,231 tonnes.

But company executives said a sharp increase in local sales more than compensated for the decline, and accounted for the rise in profit. They did not give figures.

Total production was two million tonnes in 1990, almost unchanged from the previous year. Much of the cement stored in 1989 was sold in 1990, the company statement said.

Kuwait received 592,129 tonnes of cement in the first seven months of 1990.

Tourism industry tries to lure visitors back to Gulf

OTTAWA (R) — Tourists are still shying away from many Middle Eastern nations despite the end of the Gulf war and travel operators plan an intensified effort to lure them back, a United Nations official has said.

Antonio Enriquez Savignac, secretary-general of the U.N. World Tourism Organisation, said agents, airlines and officials must promote the region and the fact its tourist sites were largely untouched by the 100-day war.

"We have to answer, 'how do you bring back the image of the country and the fact that its facilities are well?' Mr. Savignac told reporters during an international conference on travel and tourism statistics.

Regional meetings between tour operators and airlines are being planned to find ways of improving tourism to the Gulf.

No figures on foreign visits to the Middle East were available. The Gulf war revealed the industry's inability to respond when confronted with a crisis, Mr. Savignac added.

"The initial reaction was helplessness," he told delegates to the conference.

Tourism has plummeted in countries like Egypt and Turkey as a result of the war against Iraq, he said. Efforts to entice visitors back are hampered by the industry's lack of contingency plan to deal with such "upsets."

Although tourism is the single largest industry in the world, valued at more than \$2.5 trillion a year, the industry's information base is dismal, he said.

BIS says banks cut loans to OPEC states in second half of 1990

BASLE, Switzerland (R) — Banks in leading industrialised countries substantially reduced lending to OPEC countries in the second half of 1990, the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) said in a half-yearly report.

The bank also cut lending to East Europe, the report said. Concern about instability in the Gulf and the reduced credit needs of members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), which benefited from a steep rise in oil prices, reduced outstanding loans to OPEC members by \$3.5 billion after a fall of \$2.0 billion in the first half.

The BIS, which acts as central bank to the world's central banks, said the decline occurred in longer-term lending. Overall, consolidation and caution were the watchwords of lending in the second half of the year as banks generally tended to lend more in the short-term and the share of claims — outstanding loans — in the "up to and including one year" category rose to an unprecedented level.

In current dollar terms, consolidated claims on non-BIS reporting area countries rose 6.5 per cent to \$660 billion. The area includes the group of 10 industrial nations plus Austria, Denmark,

Finland, Ireland, Luxembourg and Spain.

But more than a third of this increase was accounted for by the inclusion of loans by banks located in former East Germany. Eliminating effects of exchange rate movements and allowing for extended coverage into eastern Germany, consolidated claims stabilised after dropping four per cent in the first-half 1990.

Deposits received by the banks from countries outside the reporting area surged by \$53 billion in the second half.

The BIS said new lending was confined to the more dynamic among the non-OPEC "less developed" states such as South Korea.

Banks continued to cut their exposure to East Europe. Claims fell 4.1 per cent or \$3.3 billion after contracting nearly six per cent in the preceding six months.

Claims on the Soviet Union fell \$2.0 billion in the second half after a previous decline of \$3.5 billion, but the BIS said the decline would have been greater had it not been for an officially sponsored credit granted by some German banks.

Elsewhere, the largest decline in claims was for Hungary with a fall of \$800 million. After five years of uninterrupted decline,

claims on Poland stabilised in the second half.

Owing to falling demand for credit in a period of recession, credits to non-BIS developed nations shrank by \$1.2 billion after rising \$6.1 billion in the first half.

Among OPEC members, lending to the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia decreased most sharply. Outstanding credits plunged \$1.2 billion and \$700 million respectively while credit outstanding to Iraq contracted by \$1.2 billion.

In the aggregate, banks' claims on Latin American countries crept up by \$3.3 billion after dropping \$2.8 billion in the previous six months.

Claims on Mexico rose \$2.8 billion or six per cent while lending to Brazil, which continued informal debt reduction operations, fell \$1.2 billion after a previous fall of \$6.2 billion.

Credits outstanding to India, faced with a deteriorating current account situation and a steep fall in official reserves, rose by nearly \$1 billion after a previous increase of \$200 million.

In contrast to other categories, no major country in Asia experienced a significant decline in its banking debt.

Claims on African countries edged up by \$700 million.

OECD sees high interest rates slowing Italian economic recovery

ROME (R) — The Italian economy, experiencing its worst year for growth since 1983, should regain some momentum in 1992 although high local interest rates may restrain recovery, a Paris-based economic think tank has said.

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said in its half-yearly report that stimulus should come from faster export growth as the stronger dollar made Italian products more competitive abroad.

Internal demand was expected to rise under the influence of continuing high wage increases, particularly in the public sector, and this would also help boost economic growth to 2.7 per cent next year.

The 24-nation organisation expects the Italian economy to ex-

pand around 1.7 per cent in 1991, its slowest rate for eight years. The forecast compares with the 2.5 per cent the OECD predicted for 1991 last December.

The finance ministry said recently that growth could slow this year to about 1.4 per cent, down from the official forecast of 2.1 per cent. But many private economists see gross domestic product (GDP) expanding no more than one per cent in 1991.

The level of next year's real interest rates — the difference between the nominal rate and inflation — was in doubt, the organisation said. Italy has needed to keep these rates high due to its huge public sector deficit.

High interest rates could hold back investment in construction and act as a drag on economic

growth, it warned. Inflation was expected to slow to an average 5.5 per cent in 1992, a full point higher than the government's target, from 6.4 per cent in 1991.

The OECD noted government plans to cut the deficit some six per cent to 132 trillion lire (\$98.29 billion) in 1991.

It said any retreat from the plans could undermine the confidence of financial markets and reduce the scope for lowering the interest rate differential between Italy and other leading European economies.

This in turn would hamper the country's attempts to make its economy more competitive ahead of the European Community's planned lifting of all trade and financial barriers from the beginning of 1993.

U.S. consumer borrowing dips again

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans reined in their borrowing at a 1.0 per cent annual rate in May as the fifth pull back in six months — due to a 14.1 per cent plunge in automobile loans, the government has said.

Analysts attributed the decline to consumer and lender caution which they said could mute the economy's recovery.

The Federal Reserve said consumer credit fell by a seasonally adjusted \$626 million after increasing at a 1.9 per cent rate in April. The April gain, originally estimated at a 2.8 per cent rate, was the first since installment credit advanced last November at a 4.5 per cent rate.

Consumer credit includes all

consumer loans except mortgages and home-equity debt. It helps finance much of the overall consumer spending which represents two-thirds of the nation's economic activity.

Analysts look to the consumer sector to lead the economy out of the recession.

But economist Sandra Shaber of the Futures Group, a Washington management consultant firm, said the consumer credit report suggested two things: That "consumers are still cautious, taking a wait-and-see attitude as to whether the economy really is

recovering, and that lending institutions are not too willing to extend credit."

"Putting both together — consumer caution and lender caution — suggests a real constraint on this turnaround," she added, saying a sustained recovery will require both spending by consumers and lending by financial institutions.

Installment debt shrank at a 0.6 per cent rate in December, the first dip since it inched down 0.2 per cent in February 1989. And as the recession wore on, consumers continued to rein in their debt.

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U.S.-Soviet arms talks enter 4th day

'Much accomplished' at START talks

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. and Soviet negotiators returned to the bargaining table Sunday for a fourth, unexpected day, pushing toward final agreement on a treaty to reduce long-range nuclear missiles.

Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh met for some nine hours of talks Saturday, breaking up shortly before midnight.

Both foreign ministers postponed their departures from Washington — Mr. Baker had planned to leave for the seven-day economic summit in London and Mr. Bessmertnykh was going home.

Mr. Baker also cancelled a planned appearance on a television interview programme, and both sides maintained a virtual news blackout on the talks which focused largely on technical issues designed to prevent cheating.

"While it was a long day and much was accomplished, not all the issues have been resolved at

this time," the administration said in a brief statement issued at the State Department Saturday night.

"I'm encouraged, but I don't know if I'm optimistic," said Brent Scowcroft, President George Bush's national security adviser. "We made a proposal. The Soviets have not accepted our proposal, but come a long way to it," he told reporters.

The Soviet News Agency (TASS), in a dispatch from Washington Sunday, quoted a Soviet delegation member as saying that the modified U.S. positions offered Saturday "inspire hope for a breakthrough."

The Soviets were reportedly pressing the U.S. team for reassurances that American B-1 bombers would not be loaded with cruise missiles. In return, they were apparently willing to compromise somewhat on U.S. demands regarding numbers of missile warheads.

Mr. Baker and Mr. Bessmertnykh, who began their talks Thursday, instructed their aides

to refrain from briefing the media about the negotiations but promised to meet with reporters Sunday.

The remaining hurdles to a treaty slashing as much as 30 per cent of both sides' missiles, submarines and bombers are highly technical but considered important to guard against cheating.

A breakthrough in the Baker-Bessmertnykh talks could pave the way for a long-anticipated Moscow summit this summer between Mr. Bush and President Mikhail Gorbachev.

But Mr. Bush, as he has in the past, sought to play down expectations that the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), in negotiations for almost 10 years, would be completed this weekend.

"There has been movement on all of the issues," said Mr. Scowcroft, including the most nettlesome problem plaguing negotiators — known as "downloading." That means how many spare spaces for warheads each side can keep on its missiles while

still remaining within the warhead limitations set by the treaty.

The Bush administration is opposed to "downloading" because it fears that in a crisis the Soviets might simply load the missiles with their full complement of warheads and apply the remaining quota of warheads to other missiles.

If the experts fail to settle the remaining disagreements, Mr. Bush and Mr. Gorbachev themselves may tackle the issues at an informal meeting they're holding next week in London on the sidelines of the annual conference of leaders from the world's seven richest democracies.

Mr. Gorbachev, although not a member of that exclusive club, has been invited to present his plans for revamping the beleaguered Soviet economy.

The START agreement would for the first time cap and reduce by an average of 30 per cent — the number of Soviet and American missiles, bombers and submarines capable of reaching each others' shores.

Ukraine thwarts Gorbachev one year after declaring sovereignty

KIEV, Soviet Union (R) — As President Mikhail Gorbachev prepares to meet Western leaders in London, one man in the Ukraine is blocking his new treaty for the Soviet Union.

The son of peasants and a Communist Party careerist, Leonid Makarovich Kravchuk is an unlikely obstacle.

But as chairman of the Ukrainian parliament he is almost single-handedly holding off final approval of the proposed new treaty binding the republics in a "renewed union."

Already the Ukraine has declared jurisdiction over Soviet enterprises on its territory and set out its right to form an army and mint its own currency. Negotiations are under way to attract direct Western investment.

And on Tuesday the republic of 51 million celebrates its first Independence Day to mark last year's declaration of sovereignty, a far-reaching document that has provided Mr. Kravchuk, 57, with political cover for his new assertiveness.

Last month, instead of rushing the draft treaty through and forming a delegation empowered to sign the final document, Mr. Kravchuk used his influence to delay action until September.

The decision dashed Mr. Gorbachev's hopes of tucking a signed agreement into his briefcase on his way to London on July 16, where he will appeal to the leaders of the group of seven industrial powers for political and material support.

"This document is so important, the matter is so serious — we are speaking about the crea-

tion of a union, about the Ukraine and other republics entering a new kind of union," Mr. Kravchuk told Reuters in an interview.

"Can a delegation of 15 people — or five or 10 as some have formed — decide for all of the republics?"

What power will the Ukraine allow the Kremlin to hold?

"That which we delegate," storms Mr. Kravchuk, who says he can hand over only those powers he was first sealed as a matter of right.

Where Moscow wants to impose a direct federal tax, Mr. Kravchuk has offered a single lump sum. Where the Kremlin demands 40 per cent of republican industries' hard currency earnings, the Ukraine says they must stay within its borders.

The republic, the union's second richest, has topped up what it thinks the union's services — strategic defence, space exploration, ecological protection — are worth each year.

"We believe that the Ukraine should pay 20 billion roubles for maintenance," Mr. Kravchuk said. "That is our fixed contribution. It is our affair where we get it, how we get it."

Parliamentary deputies say the republic's total payments to central government amount to about 100 billion roubles per year.

But if Mr. Kravchuk's tax revolt has alarmed the Kremlin and local Communists, it has also gone a long way towards neutralising the separatist movement.

Mr. Kravchuk, reviled by many not long ago for suspected pro-

likely frontrunner in the republic's first popular presidential poll, on Dec. 1.

Many in the powerful Rukh popular movement appear ready to set aside their past differences and back Mr. Kravchuk, isolating the radicals based largely in the western Ukraine.

"My understanding of sovereignty took place, if we go by the calendar, in 1989, when the (Communist) Party began to fall apart ... to lose its weight and authority. I understood the party had to be saved. But how?" Mr. Kravchuk said.

"It occurred to me it could be preserved only by becoming sovereign ... but ... if there is a sovereign state, there must be a sovereign state. These are mutually connected matters."

The Ukrainian Communist Party, of which Mr. Kravchuk is still a leading member, backed up his sovereignty plan.

But on July 16, 1990, the declaration became law. Mr. Kravchuk was on his way, cautiously balancing the separatist west with the caution of the Russian-speaking east.

It is this contrast with the confrontational politics of the six breakaway republics that marks Mr. Kravchuk the politician.

"For me the most important thing is that all proceeds peacefully, that there be no war. No one in the future can say the declaration led to bloodshed," he said.

"The people must understand that we will be free ... The (sovereignty) declaration must be the goal which we head for step by step, in sequence, and attain."

Rains ease in China but flood alert is not over

HUANGNITOU, China (R) — China's mighty Yangtze River is boiling with floodwaters after rains causing the worst devastation this century and local officials said better weather Sunday did not mean the emergency was over.

Around the city of Wuxi in Jiangsu province, the sun blazed down on scenes of destruction. Peasants pushed boats and wooden washbats around their fields and huddled on rooftops crowded with furniture, motorcycles and livestock.

Millions of peasants in eastern China filled sandbags to shore up the banks of the Yangtze and protect outlying areas of Nanjing and Shanghai, where the river empties into the sea.

While officials in the two cities said Sunday there was no immediate threat to urban areas from the Yangtze's swollen tributaries, there was concern about rising sea tides in Shanghai. The floods have already devastated the countryside of Jiangsu and Anhui provinces.

The death toll since mid-May, when rains began lashing vast areas of China, particularly Anhui province and Jiangsu on the coast to the east, is more than 1,300 and still rising.

Local officials in and around Wuxi cautioned Sunday it was too early to declare the immediate emergency over.

Waters of Lake Tai, the largest in eastern China, were still sluicing over embankments into Wuxi, a city of four million, covering causeways and roads with green slims.

Nevertheless, officials said, some of the 300,000 people forced to flee their homes in the area were returning.

"If we have no rain like today

for 10 to 20 days, water levels will go back to normal," Wuxi City official Luo Lingen said in an interview.

Official reports of conditions in other areas of eastern China were sketchy but it was clear that tens of millions of peasants had suffered losses to their homes and farmland that will take years to repair.

China has launched an international appeal for \$200 million in humanitarian aid.

Water-borne diseases such as dysentery and cholera are sweeping some flooded areas.

"The water is up to my waist in my house. Of course it's a disaster," said one woman in Sandao, a township of 16,000 people where more than 300 houses have been destroyed.

"We couldn't save our paddy fields. All we could do was build small dams around the town and save our people," said Deputy Mayor Huan Zhongren.

In Taipei, Taiwan, Premier Hau Pei-tsun, a hardline anti-Communist, has urged people in Taiwan to contribute to relief efforts for flood victims in China, the official Central Daily News reported Sunday.

"We should realise that if they drown, we too drown," the premier said, quoting a Chinese proverb.

Political tension has eased in recent years between Taipei and Peking, bitter rivals since 1949 when the Communists won a civil war on the Chinese mainland and drove the Nationalists into exile in Taiwan.

On Friday, the Taiwan government announced that it was donating \$1 million and 10,000 tonnes of rice worth about \$13.5 million to China's flood victims through the Red Cross.

1 killed, 20 wounded as film with peace message opens in U.S.

LOS ANGELES (R) — Boyz N The Hood, a film intended to carry a peace message to young gang members, opened to gunfire across the United States with one youth killed and 20 wounded in shootings, police said.

Disturbances marked the opening of the film, a portrayal of inner-city life by a black first-time director, in at least 12 cities.

Police in Riverdale, a Chicago suburb, said Michael Booth, 23, was shot at a drive-in where the film was being shown and pronounced dead in hospital. No immediate arrests were made.

Boyz N The Hood, which features the rap singer Ice Cube, opened at 800 cinemas Friday. It tells of the frustrations of black teenagers growing up amid poverty and drugs in a gang-dominated area of Los Angeles.

One of a wave of new films by young black film-makers, it is the first by black writer and director John Singleton, 23, who has said he made it to try to stem gang violence.

At a news conference in Los Angeles, Singleton, wearing a cap with the words Boyz N The Hood, Keep The Peace, said, "my heart goes out to the families of the people that were hurt last night." He said he was disappointed at the violence "because that's not what my movie is about," adding: "I'm not responsible because I didn't create the conditions which make people shoot each other."

At a news conference in Los Angeles, Singleton, wearing a cap with the words Boyz N The Hood, Keep The Peace, said, "my heart goes out to the families of the people that were hurt last night." He said he was disappointed at the violence "because that's not what my movie is about," adding: "I'm not responsible because I didn't create the conditions which make people shoot each other."

Mitterrand jeered at Bastille Day parade

PARIS (R) — Groups of rightist demonstrators jeered and whistled at French President Francois Mitterrand when he drove down the Champs Elysees Avenue Sunday at the start of the traditional Bastille Day parade.

The demonstrators, members of small but highly active extreme right-wing groups, placed themselves each year along the president's route on the July 14 national holiday in order to heckle him.

But the militants appeared more numerous than usual this year as they mingled with tens of thousands of Frenchmen and foreigners who turned out for the colourful parade. No arrests were immediately reported.

Mr. Mitterrand reviewed 5,000 soldiers and 600 vehicles taking part in the event. Some 200 aircraft roared overhead during the parade, which was mostly a tribute to returning troops of the Dague Division which fought in

the Gulf war.

The division occupied the extreme western flank of the allied ground offensive into Iraq where it penetrated nearly unopposed on Feb. 24, losing only two dead and about two dozen wounded.

Dague made the deepest thrust into Iraq of any allied force on the war's first day — some 60 kilometres — taking prisoner thousands of dispirited Iraqis.

On Sunday, dressed in desert camouflage fatigues, the Marines, Foreign Legionnaires and Dragons of the Dague Division were wildly cheered by the Paris crowds.

But military commentators said that while the troops had performed well, French politicians should remember the war had also underlined the antiquated character of much of France's military equipment.

"In the Gulf, our army appeared as if it was ready to fight wars of the past... as our



Francois Mitterrand

tanks and aircraft were older than those serving in them," wrote retired Colonel Jean-Louis Dufour, one of France's prime military affairs commentators.

Shortly before the parade, Mr. Mitterrand comforted a former major of the now-defunct South Vietnamese Army, who arrived in France as a political refugee and whose son was killed in French ranks in the Gulf.

7 dead in S. Africa weekend violence

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Seven people died and at least eight were injured in weekend political violence in South Africa's black townships, police said Sunday.

Routine police reports listed four people shot dead in the Johannesburg townships of Tembisa and Alexandria Friday and a fifth man was found burned to death there Saturday.

Two people were burned and stabbed to death and five others were wounded in a hand grenade attack in the eastern province of Natal.

The Independent Institute of Race Relations lists 10,000 people killed in six years of political violence in South Africa, about 5,000 of them in clashes between the African National Congress (ANC) and the Natal-based Inkatha Freedom Party.

ANC leader Nelson Mandela has accused President F.W. de Klerk's white minority government of fanning the conflict between his radical movement and Zulu chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi's more conservative Inkatha.

Inkatha accuses the ANC of keeping the township war alive.

The ANC decided at a conference in Durban earlier this month to set up township self-defence units led by veterans of its guerrilla army, Umkhonto We Sizwe (Spear of the Nation).

ANC military chief Chris Hani said, however, that the ANC guerrillas would not be issued with guns from arms caches the movement claims still to have hidden in South Africa.

Meanwhile an explosion wrecked a disused white school in Pretoria Sunday that had been earmarked for black South African orphans from an African National Congress (ANC) refugee camp in Tanzania.

A police spokeswoman said the blast occurred between midnight (2300 GMT) and 2 a.m. and caused extensive damage.

She said no one had claimed responsibility for the explosion and investigators on the scene had still to determine what caused it.

U.S. police need training, rules to fight mean streets

By the Associated Press

THE STREETS are growing meaner on both sides of the law in the United States.

Reports of police attacks on citizen have grown — and so have the number and severity of assaults on officers.

But some police officers — and the people who study them — say police brutality in Los Angeles and other cities happens because officers lack the training, counseling and leadership needed to fight violence within their ranks.

"There's no question that it's a lot tougher to be a police officer. It's a terrible, terrible job," said Jim Fyfe, a justice professor at American University in Washington, D.C. "We've put them in a no-win war and people in a no-win war commit atrocities."

The debate about police violence comes after years of increasing assaults on officers. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) received 71,794 reports of attacks on officers nationwide in 1990, up from 64,251 in 1986.

In 1986, 22 per cent of the officers attacked were injured; last year, 36 per cent were hurt.

Prof. Fyfe, a New York City policeman for 16 years, said the incidents are often used by police administrators to reinforce a dangerous "them-against-us" attitude among officers.

"Historically we have told them they are a thin blue line," he said. "In Los Angeles, there has been the philosophy that the police are this small noble army surrounded by a hostile tribe."

A special commission looking into the beating of a black motorist by Los Angeles police blamed incidents of excessive force by police on a "siege mentality that alienates patrol officers from the community."

The commission's report, issued last week, said superiors ignored warning signs, such as racial slurs in radio communications. Such incidents showed a "significant breakdown in the department's management responsibility," the commission said.

Although some argued administrators cannot be responsible for the action of a few rogue cops, those who study police violence say consistent acts of excessive force result from the tone set by the department.

"When other people around them close their eyes to what they are doing, it makes it easier for them to get away with this stuff," said Hans Toch, a criminal justice professor at the State University of New York's Albany Campus.

Prof. Toch, who has studied police brutality, said violence springs up more in departments that focus on arrest numbers.

"Officers are held in high esteem for bringing in people, with or without broken bones," he said. "When you add the silence and support they get from their peers for using excessive force, you get a combined package that is Los Angeles or a city like it."

One remedy to problems like these is training. But even additional training is only a starting point.

"The best-trained officers are going to lapse into these things if they are not supervised well," said John Eck, associate director of research for Police Executive Research Forum. "Someone has to be there to back up the training."

C. American leaders seek progress for region

SAN SALVADOR (R) — The five presidents of Central America, a region of some 26 million people ravaged by war and poverty, met in El Salvador from Monday for a three-day summit aimed at building a common economic future.

El Salvador's president, Alfredo Cristiani, said the meeting would concentrate on taking steps to integrate the economies of Nicaragua, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Honduras and El Salvador and reviving a previously aborted regional political body, the Organisation of Central American States (ODECA).

"It is a summit in which we will try to give impetus to accords already taken," Mr. Cristiani told a news conference. "As a new theme, we have the ODECA. We believe a permanent organisation is necessary to follow up on agreements we reach."

The governments of Central America, all of a rightist or centre rightist complexion, will seek greater integration through agreements on free trade, reduction of import tariffs and relaxation of border controls.

The groundwork for such accords was laid in a regional economic plan drafted a year ago at a previous summit in Antigua, Guatemala.

International humanitarian organisations estimate some two-thirds of Central Americans live in extreme or relative poverty.

ODECA, founded in 1951 during a previous wave of efforts to unite the historically fractious region, fell into inactivity in 1969 after a 100-hour conflict known as the "soccer war" between El Salvador and Honduras.

Mr. Cristiani said the five nations, to be joined by Panama as an observer, would review efforts at ending his country's bloody civil war and a 30-year leftist insurgency in neighbouring Guatemala.

"We have always thought that while in one country there is war, there will be no peace in the whole region," Mr. Cristiani said.

Well over 100,000 people have died in the last decade in civil conflicts in El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guatemala and Honduras. The wars mutilated thousands more, crippled national economies and displaced millions of people.

Troops in Europe redeploying to U.S. bases in 10 states

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Army plans to bring thousands of soldiers home from Europe provides new clues to the future shape of the nation's largest service.

The army announced Friday that about 12,000 soldiers in Germany will be reassigned to U.S. posts between now and 1995 as part of a broader withdrawal of American forces from Western Europe.

Besides providing some of the first details on which units will be pulled out of Europe, the announcement also gave shape to what previously had been abstract descriptions by army leaders of what the U.S.-based force will look like in the future.

Bases in Texas, Oklahoma, Georgia, Louisiana and Washington state will take the bulk of the 12,000 soldiers leaving Germany to become part of what the army calls its Contingency Force — units tailored to rapid deployment to anywhere in the world.

As a result of bringing those 12,000 GIs stateside, the Contingency Force will be larger, more heavily weighted to armoured forces and less dependent on reservists.

The changes are designed to fit

the Bush administration's new defence strategy, which puts less emphasis on keeping forces deployed abroad and more on being able to send versatile forces quickly to hot spots around the globe. The new strategy is based on a reduced fear of a Soviet attack on Western Europe.

The changes to the Contingency Force also reflect lessons learned from the Gulf war.

One of the main problems in deploying the lead army units to the Gulf was that the National Guard combat brigades designed to go with active-duty divisions weren't sufficiently trained.

Those Guard units no longer will be assigned the quick-deployment role. Once called up to active duty, they will be given up to three months' training before going to the front lines.

The main change in the makeup of the U.S. Contingency Force, officially organised as the XVIII Airborne Corps, is that the armoured element will be doubled.

The 1st Cavalry Division, which played a key role in the allied ground war against Iraq, will be added to the XVIII Airborne Corps to beef up its

armoured strength. The other heavy division in the corps is the 24th Infantry Division (mechanised). Both divisions have about 15,000 soldiers.

Another key change involves the 24th Infantry Division, based at Fort Stewart, Georgia.

The 24th will retain its two active-duty brigades and add a third, the 197th Infantry Brigade, currently based at Fort Benning, Georgia, which went with the 24th to the Gulf in place of the National Guard Brigade that had been designated to go.

The 48th Infantry Brigade of the Georgia National Guard, which never made it to the war because of Defence Department concerns about its training, will no longer be expected to deploy quickly. It will remain associated with the 1st Cavalry

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Likewise, the 155th Armoured Brigade of the Mississippi National Guard, which also did not make it to the Gulf war to augment the 1st Cavalry Division, will no longer be expected to deploy quickly. It will remain associated with the 1st Cavalry

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COLUMN

2 charged over murder of surgeon

SYDNEY (R) — Two men were charged in connection with the murder of leading heart surgeon Victor Chang who was gunned down in an exclusive Sydney suburb 10 days ago, a police spokesman said. Chiew Seng Liew, 48, was charged with Chang's murder in the early hours of Sunday after being arrested at Melbourne Airport Saturday afternoon as he was about to catch a flight. A few hours later Jimmy Tan, 39, of the outer Melbourne suburb of Sunbury, was charged with one count of being an accessory after the fact to murder, the spokesman told Reuters. Shanghai-born Chang, 54, who performed Australia's first heart transplant operation, was shot in the head and body on July 4 during an argument with two men of Asian appearance. The surgeon was found slumped in the gutter, lying beside his black Mercedes-Benz sports car. Mr. Tan and Mr. Liew, who lives in the Melbourne suburb of South Yarra, were remanded in custody to appear at the Melbourne Magistrates Court Monday. No pleas were taken. The arrests follow a week-long investigation in Melbourne by homicide detectives from a New South Wales police task force set up to probe Dr. Chang's death.

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